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6 EXCITING SPORTS PLANES YOU CAN BUILD

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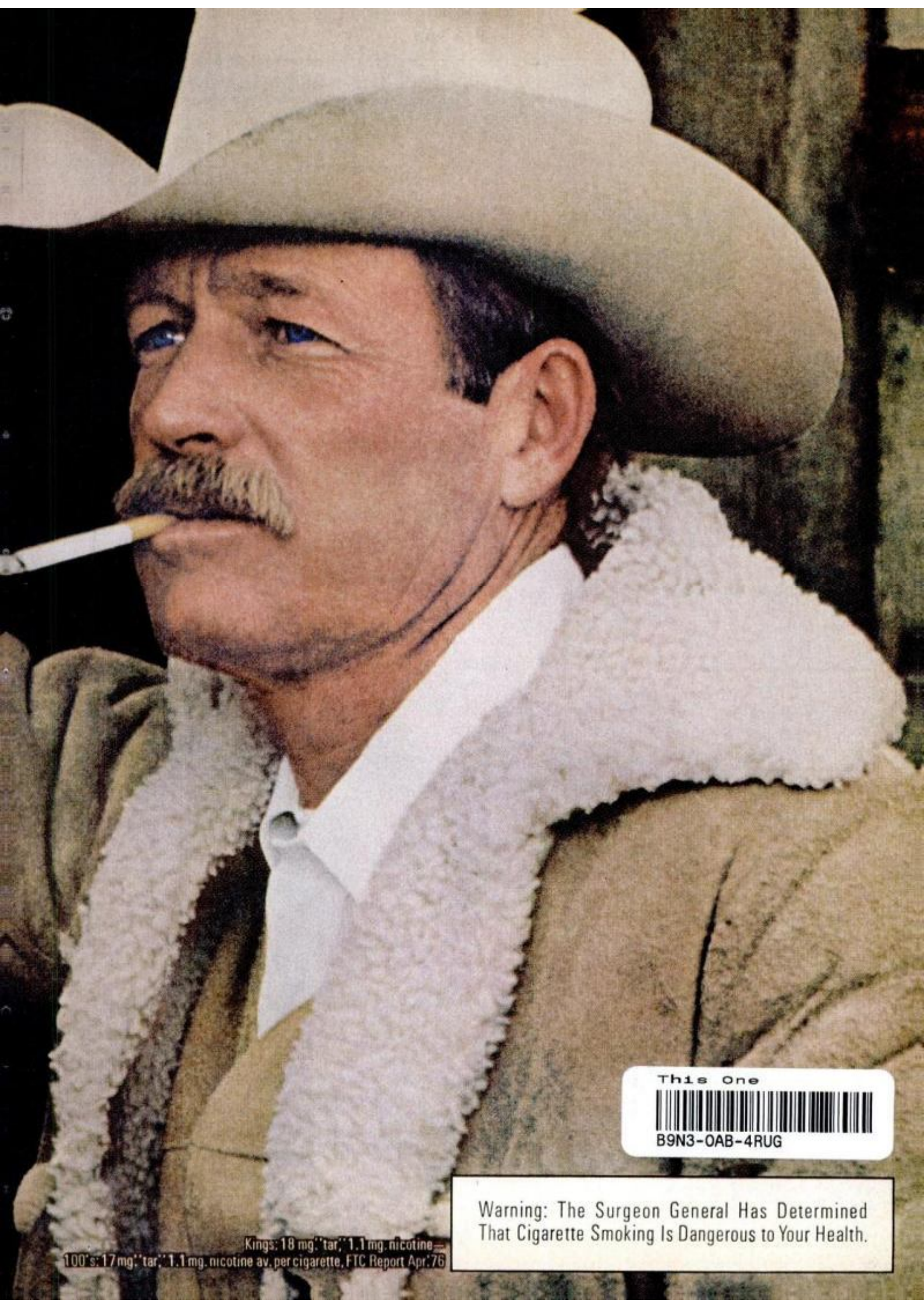
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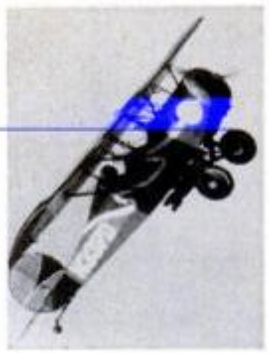
On the cover
From plans for the original two-place open Pietenpol, one builder "tricked up" his plane to look like a WW1 fighter complete with dummy bomb. For a look at some new and colorful aircraft you can build from plans or kits, see pages 72-73.
Photo: Howard Levy



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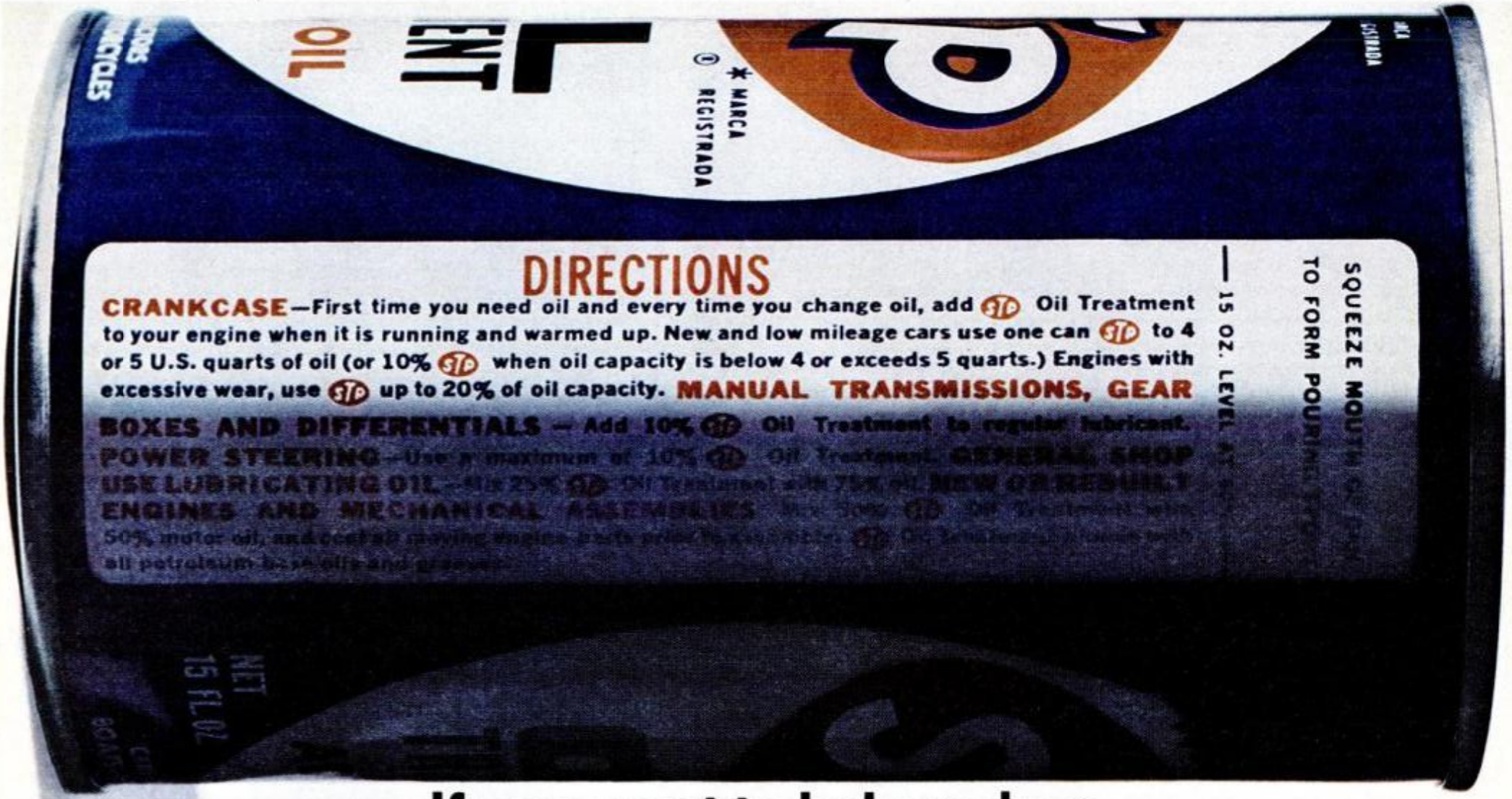

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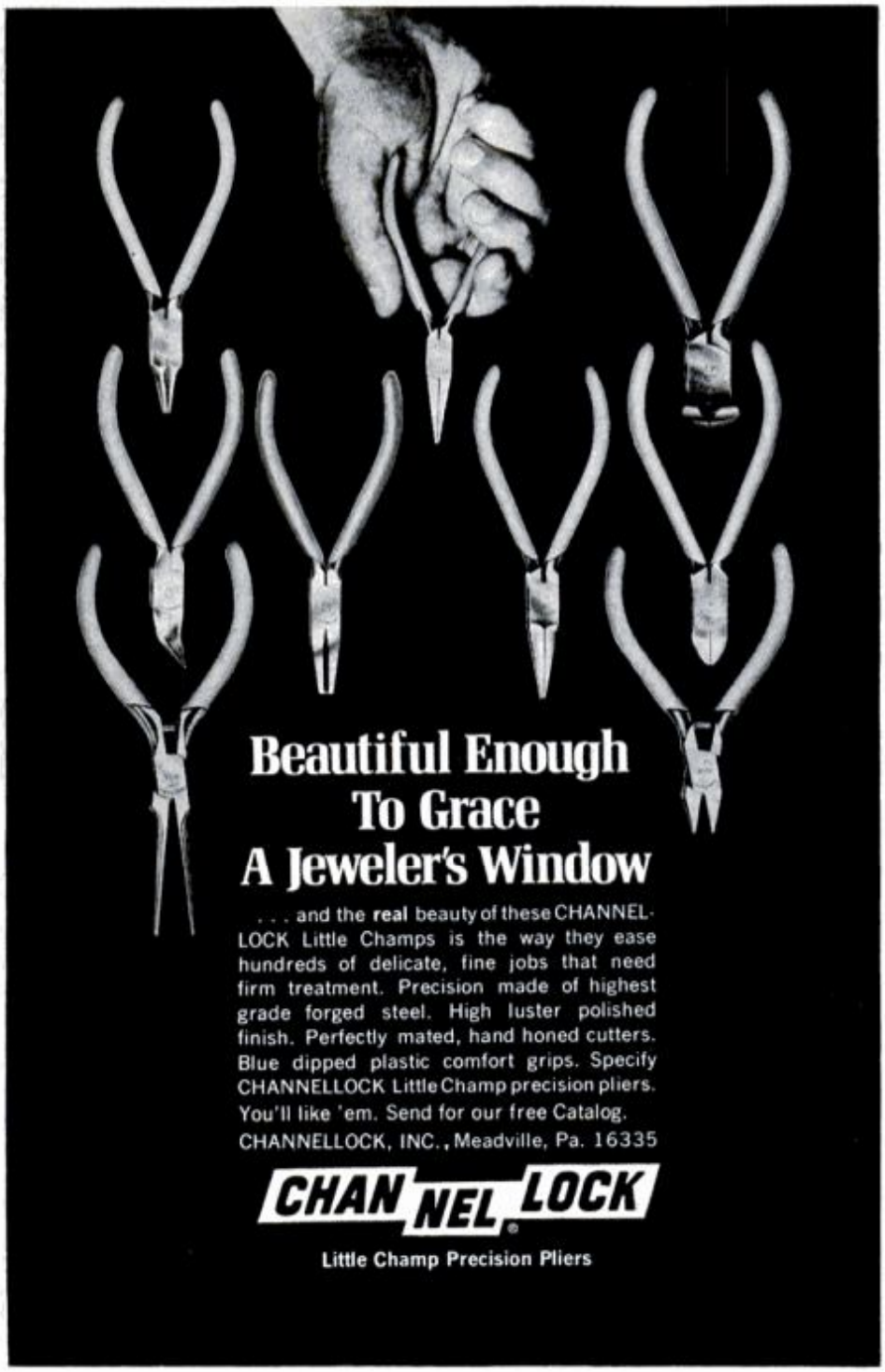

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It's a fact that the people who first put radio on wheels also made the first radio on wheels on the moon.

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Because Motorola® makes more radios for police, firemen, taxis, and lunar rovers than anybody.

And now Motorola makes a 40-Channel CB radio that shares much more than a name with our professional 2-way radios.

The clean, uncluttered lines of the Motorola CB, for instance.

e or lease of Motorola 40-channel CB radios is subject to FCC type acceptance.

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Features that many manufacturers leave on the outside of their sets (or don't offer at all) are built into a Motorola CB.

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We believe it's the most sensibly engineered CB radio on the market.

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To find the dealer nearest you, write: Customer Relations Manager, Motorola, Inc., Automotive Products Division, 333 Northwest Ave., Northlake, Illinois 60164.

SIX GOOD JOBS FOR

Read what the U.S. Dept. of Labor* says about these growing career fields:

1. **Auto Mechanics.** For entry jobs, employers look for young persons with mechanical aptitude, and knowledge of automobiles. Generally, a driver's license is required. Courses in automobile repair offered by many high schools, vocational schools, and private trade schools are helpful. Employment is expected to increase because expansion of the driving age population, and consumer purchasing power will increase the number of automobiles.

2. **Accountants.** Demand for skilled accountants will rise as managers rely more on accounting information to make business decisions. Persons planning a career in accounting should have an aptitude for mathematics. Employers seek applicants who can handle responsibility and work with little supervision. Employment is expected to increase about as fast as the average for all occupations through the mid-1980's.

3. **Engineering and Science Technicians.** Industrial expansion and increasing complexity of modern technology underlie the anticipated increase in demand for technicians. Those interested in a career as a technician should have an aptitude for mathematics and science, and enjoy technical work. An ability to do detailed work with a high degree of accuracy is necessary; for design work, creative talent also is desirable. Employment opportunities are expected to be favorable through the mid-1980's.

4. **Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Mechanics.** Increases in household formations and rising personal incomes should result in a very rapid increase in the number of air conditioned homes. Air-conditioning in schools, factories, and other buildings also is expected to increase. Employers prefer high school graduates who have had courses in mathematics, physics, electronics and blue-print reading. Employment is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the mid-1980's.

5. **Draftsmen.** Those planning careers in drafting should: be able to do detailed work requiring a high degree of accuracy; have good eyesight and eye-hand coordination because most of their work is done at the drawing board; be able to function as part of a team since they work directly with engineers, architects, and skilled workers; and be able to do free-hand drawings of three dimensional objects. Employment of drafters is expected to rise rapidly as a result of the increasingly complex design problems of modern products and processes.

6. **Electricians. (Construction and Maintenance)** Most training authorities recommend the completion of a 4-year apprenticeship program as the best way to learn the trade. Many helpers gain additional knowledge through trade school or correspondence courses. Although physical strength is not essential, manual dexterity, agility, and good health are. Employment of construction electricians and maintenance electricians is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the mid-1980's. This growth will stem from increased use of electrical and electronic equipment by industry.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 1976-77 edition.

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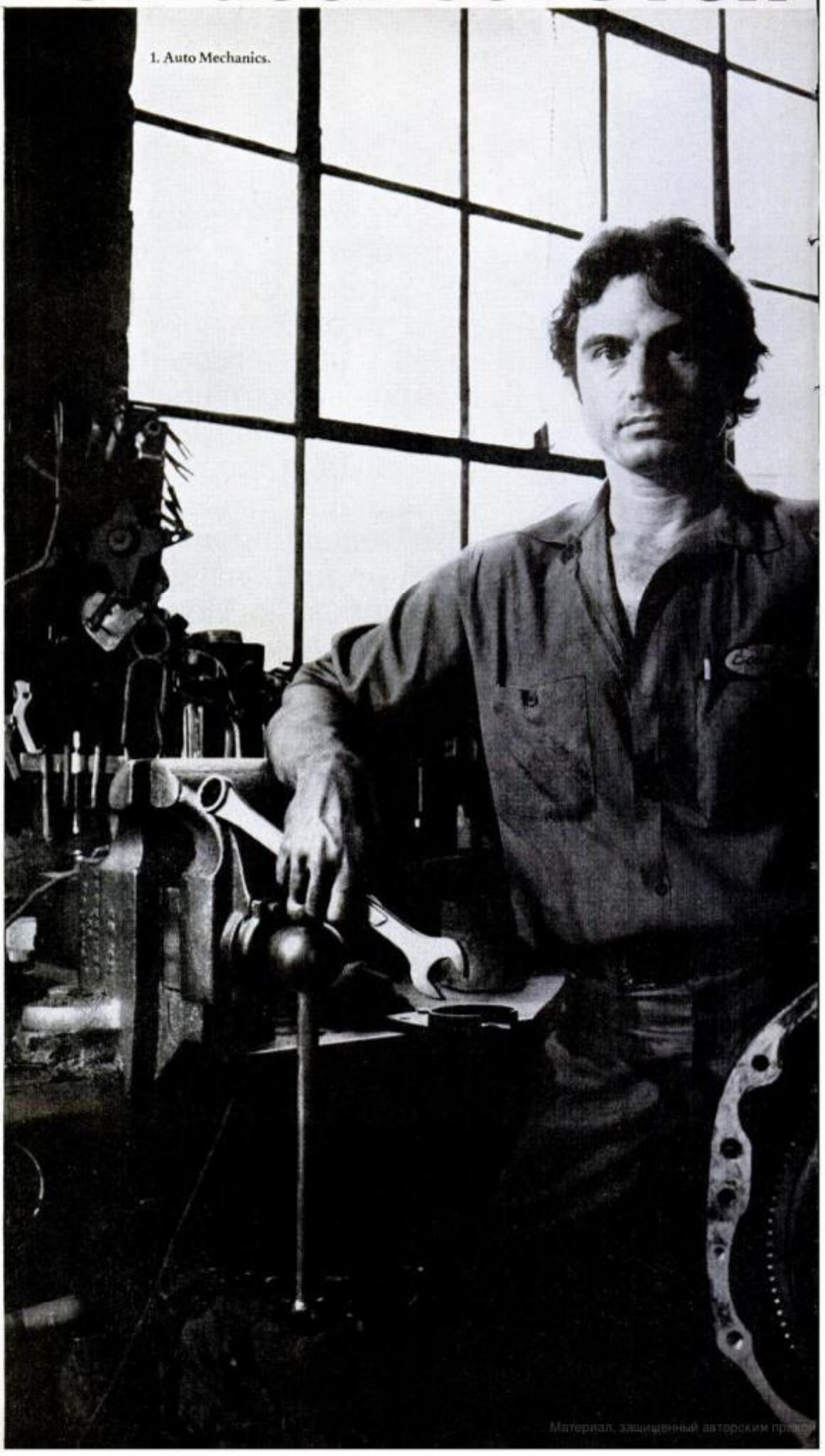

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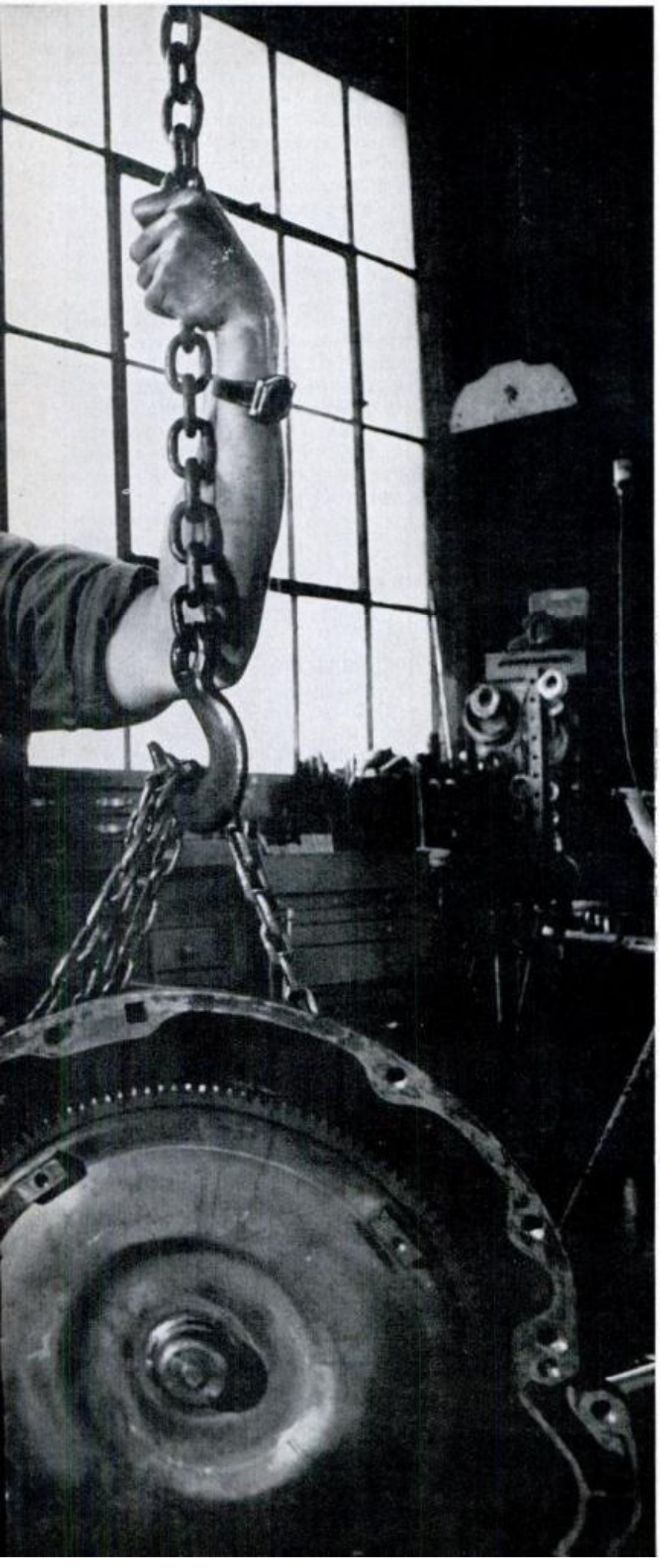
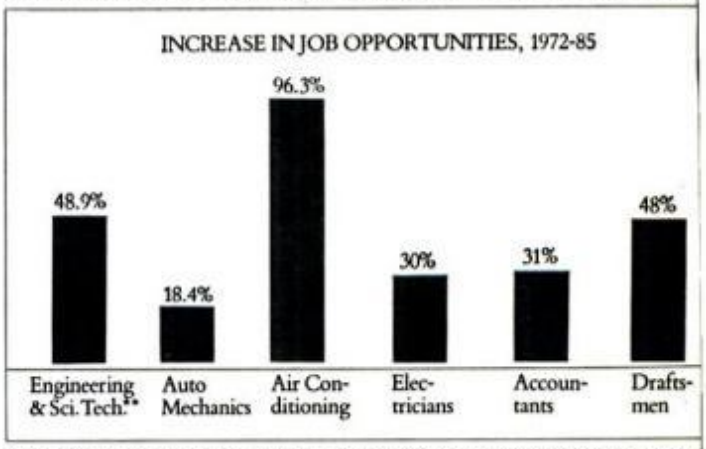
THE 70's & 80's



If you're looking for a new career, you should keep in mind that some job fields will grow faster than others over the next ten years. (Some, such as barbers, railroad workers, meat-cutters, etc., will actually decline.)

Why do we tell you this? We're ICS—International Correspondence Schools—and we offer career training in fields t government experts say are likely to increase over the next decad



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Manpower and Training Needs*, Revised
**This category includes electronics and a variety of engineering fields available through ICS, as well as s technical fields which ICS does not offer.

Of course, we can't guarantee you a job—no school can do that. But we can give you the first-rate training you need, espe cially if you're interested in one of the growing career fields wher ICS concentrates its training.

You could even earn a degree without going to college. The ICS Center for Degree Studies is authorized by the Pennsylvar Department of Education to grant the Associate in Specialized Business degree in Accounting and Business Management, and the Associate in Specialized Technology degree in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and Chemical Engineering Technologies.

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ICS International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, Pa. 18515

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- ☐ Surveying & Mapping
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- ☐ Diesel Mechanic
- ☐ Air Conditioning & Refrig.
- ☐ Automotive Mechanics
- ☐ Business Management
- ☐ Civil Engineering
- ☐ Interior Decorating
- ☐ Income Tax
- ☐ Motel/Restaurant Management
- ☐ Mechanical Engineering
- ☐ Appliance Servicing & Repair

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Concerned about ripoff

How to End the CB Ripoff (page 92, Nov. '76) was most informative—but at the same time frightening. I say frightening because of the very fact that such an article is necessary. That CB radio thefts are so widespread is an indictment of our society's falling values. I am not comfortable knowing there are so many thieves out there waiting to steal my property. I'd rather see an article that would cure the thieves.

KEN GREENBERG
SKOKIE, ILL.

Model A comeback

Though the Model A Ford has been making its comeback for many a year (*Return of the Model A*, page 82, Nov. '76), it certainly is not being built again. As a restorer of the true Model A Ford, I can only consider the machine that Bill Kilpatrick writes about as an "amorphodite"—a very polite term that can be used in mixed company when describing either a very poor restoration or an assembled bunch of parts that resembles a Model A Ford. Every visible piece of equipment on Biebel's automobile, with the exception of the wheels and the radiator shell, is a reproduction.

As for Kilpatrick's greatest disservice to a great hobby, it is a rare Model A that sells for even half the price he quoted for a mint car. The problem encountered in attempting to buy the real thing is that it is hard to find an owner willing to part with his car at any price.

Irresponsible statements such as "collectors are paying a lot more than $12,500 for mint Model A roadsters" only serve to drive up the cost of restorable parts and cars to a point where this hobby can no longer be enjoyed by the average restorer. I can see where every farmer in Nebraska will think the pile of bones behind his barn is worth a fortune.

A Model A Ford is the real Model A, while Kevin Biebel's $12,500 plastic fantastic is something else.

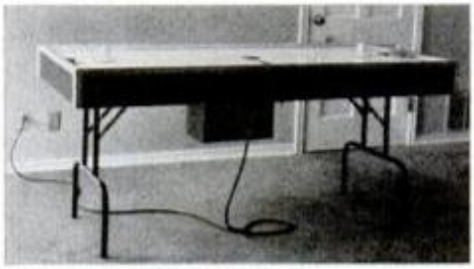
ROBERT C. STRUBLE
OMAHA, NEB.

Author Kilpatrick replies: *If you bought new replacement parts for a Model A in, say, 1933, would you then deem the car in which you installed them a "reproduction"? Of course not. Regardless of when they were manufactured, Kevin Biebel has on hand enough original, refurbished or brand-new Model A roadster components to build from scratch several cars. Everything else on the roadster he makes (with the exception of the body, which—as my piece pointed out—is made of fiberglass) is exactly like the replacement parts available when the car was in production.*

As for prices being paid for mint specimens of the originals, you ought to try to buy one from a zealous owner at a big, important national show. I have had quoted to me a price of $15,000 for a slightly-less-than-perfect '31 roadster.

A rink for hockey on air

Enclosed is a picture of the air-type hockey game I built with the help of my woodshop instructor and your



article (*Build this Tabletop Hockey Game for Family Fun*, page 94, Nov. '75).

The game won a blue ribbon at the Oklahoma Industrial Arts Assn. fair. In two and a half months of "field testing," my family, friends and I have enjoyed the game immensely. I am 14.

SAM HILL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

For photocopies of the hockey-game article, send 75 cents to Box 1014, Popular Mechanics, Radio City, N.Y. 10019. Copies of other articles in past issues may be obtained at a cost of 25 cents a page.

Cigars in the wind

I enjoyed *The Incredible Flight of Cal Rodgers* (page 78, Sept. '76). I'd like to point out one technical error, however.

The article states that Rodgers reportedly burned up 19 cigars on one particularly windy day. The assumption is that wind affects the airspeed of a plane, which it definitely does not. An airplane that has the power to cruise at 55 mph will do so regardless of crosswind, headwind or tail wind. If it is blowing 100 mph up there, your machine will churn through its section of air at whatever its mathematically assigned speed (figuring in engine power, load, configuration) happens to be.

Wind aloft affects ground speed only. So our hero's cigars were protruding into a 55-mph wind regardless of whether he was sailing along with a tail wind or bucking a head wind. It's a small point, perhaps, but we flight instructors spend hours sometimes getting it across to our students.

JAMIE BRYSEN
SONORA, MEXICO

But it's a point well taken. Our editors slipped up on this one.

Clearing up the CO_2

I'm writing in regard to a mistake in *Science Worldwide* (page 66, Nov. '76). I found the item on converting factory emissions into fertilizer interesting, but was confused as to the gas used. The article consistently spoke of carbon monoxide, yet gave the chemical formula CO_2, which is carbon dioxide. As any amateur chemist knows, there is a tremendous difference between the two gases. The correct formula for carbon monoxide is CO.

BUDDY RANDOLPH
SPRINGFIELD, TENN.

A number of readers spotted the error. Our red-faced science editor says he's amateur enough to know the difference between the two gases. It was an inadvertent mistake—the formula should have been given as CO.

More on big oil leak

Thanks so much for your article, *World's Biggest Oil Leak* (page 30, Sept. '76). I've often thought there must be a better way to dispose of old oil than "dumping it on the dandelions." My appreciation to the two Marys of Sunnyvale, Calif., and to Continental Oil for the part they are playing in recycling used oil.

CHERYL RUFF
MANHATTAN, KANS.

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The four-wheel-drive Scout Traveler, with more cargo space and a heavier payload than Jeep Cherokee.

Eight more cubic feet and 137 more pounds of payload.

Incredible but true! The new 1977 Scout Traveler gives you more space and more payload than Jeep Cherokee—with a trim, maneuverable design that's a full five inches narrower.

Trimmer outside to maneuver through the tight spots, but more spacious inside, with 103 cubic feet of cargo area to let you take everything along.

Traveler. Chosen "The 1976 Four-Wheel-Drive Vehicle of the Year" by the editors of Four Wheeler and Off-Road magazines. It's beautifully designed to combine rugged off-road performance with highway comfort.

You can order Traveler with a full range of options. From power brakes and power steering to air conditioning and cruise control.

Test drive a four-wheel-drive Scout Traveler. And bring the family along.

Scout the America others pass by.

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SCIENCE WORLDWIDE

A take-along oxygen supply

Portable oxygen units enable emphysema sufferers and others requiring inhalation therapy to get out of the house—to drive a car, go to work or out to dinner. But many units are heavy and awkward to move around.

A new system on the market—the Erie Traveler—employs an aluminum tank to cut total weight to 9½ pounds, reportedly making it 30 percent lighter than competitive units. Under normal use, the tank provides about a five-hour

supply of oxygen, according to the maker, the Erie Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee, and is rechargeable. The Traveler (shown being worn by model) retails for $165.

Can chimps sense earthquakes?

The altered behavior of chimps at a Stanford University primate research facility has led scientists to think that the animals may have been reacting to impending earthquakes. Prior to a series of minor quakes in California last June, researchers noted the "animals were more restless than usual and spent more time on the ground than high on the climbing structures and nesting areas."

At the time these changes were noted, the primates were under observation in connection with other research. Interest in the chimps' reactions was triggered by recent Chinese reports of animal behavior changes preceding a major earthquake. For more on earthquakes and animal behavior, see "Our Next Earthquake: How Soon? (page 63, Dec. '76).

Case of the missing grandmummy

A 3000-year-old lock of hair has proved to be a major clue in the recent identification of a "lost" Egyptian mummy, according to Dr. James E. Harris, a University of Michigan scientist who has devoted years to the study of Egypt's Royal Mummy Collection. The hair was contained in a miniature gold casket found in King Tutankhamen's tomb many years ago. An inscription indicated that the hair was from Queen Tiy, Tut's grandmother who died in 1360 B.C. and whose mummy was thought to be lost. Some scholarly hunches led Dr. Harris and several associates to closely examine the mummy of an elderly woman found in 1898. Scholars had thought the mummy that of a woman of no particular importance.

The Harris team took hair samples from the unidentified mummy and analyzed their chemical content with the aid of an "electron probe." Similar tests of Queen Tiy's lock of hair showed that both samples had come from the same person. (The chemical composition of hair varies greatly from person to person, say the scientists, making it a good means of identification.) In addition, computer analysis of X-ray skull profiles indicated that the skull of the previously unidentified mummy closely resembled that of Thuyu, Queen Tiy's mother. Case closed.

For well-spaced crops

A small rubber belt that drops seeds one by one is taking the waste out of crop planting. Engineered by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., the belt (top, right) is used as a spacer-conveyor on a precision seeder. Single-seed planting cuts down on losses when crops

have to be thinned, according to a Goodyear spokesman.

Evenly spaced teeth on the underside of the belt fit into a sprocket drive and notches on the top surface cradle the seed. The planter is used for a variety of crops, including beets and tomatoes.

Reducing lowers cholesterol

Rather than going on a "fat free" diet, the first step to take in lowering cholesterol and other fats in the blood is to reduce excess weight. A team of researchers at the University of Michigan School of Medicine came to that conclusion after studying virtually the entire adult population of Tecumseh, Mich.

Consumption of 110 different food items, both high and low in fats and sugar, was tabulated for 4057 adults. Levels of blood fats were measured. Researchers found no significant association between fat levels in the blood and the frequency of consumption of fat, sugar, starch, alcohol and tea. But cholesterol and other fat concentrations were significantly higher among men and women who were markedly overweight. ★★★

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APPLIANCE CLINIC

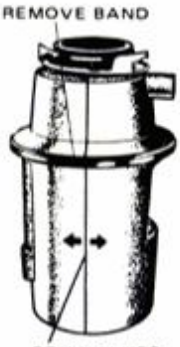
BY PAUL MANN

Shelling out

We own a Hotpoint Model GHMB 700 food disposer which has a bad on-off switch I want to replace. But I'm being blocked by the plastic housing around the unit that must be removed to get at the switch. I can't see how to get it off. Please help.—Steve Schultz, Hillside, Ill.

What you call a plastic housing, Steve, is an insulated sound shell that supposedly reduces the noise level. I can't tell you definitely how to remove it because no fewer than five different attachment methods are used. But here's a try:

Some shields, like the one you see in the illustration, are two halves which are joined together by tabs and held by a metal clamp band. You have to bend open the tab on the clamp band and pry the halves of the shell apart with a screwdriver.



FOOD DISPOSER

Other shields are also in two halves, but with one half bent over and locked to the other by tabs. Still another setup has a latch that is out of sight. You have to stick your head behind the unit and near the drain pipe to find it.

Play around and see what you can do, Steve. One thing's for sure: If you happen to break the shield apart, the unit won't run any better or worse—only noisier.

Hot stuff

I recently purchased a used General Electric "Power Shower" automatic dishwasher that works well, except that I get an electric shock if I touch both the machine and stainless-steel sink when the machine is active. I do not get a shock when the machine is off, although it is plugged in. My house is old (circa 1900) and doesn't have safety grounded wiring. The common line is grounded to the plumbing. Could this be causing my problem?—Joe Richardson, Ashton, Ill.

I doubt it. Rather, I think the used machine you purchased has an internal defect, such as a pinched wire or grounded motor, that's causing current to leak through the case. My advice, Joe, is that you do not use this machine until a competent service technician finds and corrects the condition.

Anticlinger clinker?

I've been hearing that antistatic agents sold in supermarkets for use in automatic clothes dryers to keep clothes from clinging could damage a dryer's motor. Is it true?—Dave DeYoung, Ogden, Utah

No, but . . . Guess I'd best elaborate. These products won't damage the motor, but may harm the drum. When they were first marketed, some attacked the porcelain, causing the finish to pit and get rough. I think it's still wise to keep an eye on the drum for trouble signs.

ImPORTant

The oven burner of our Magic Chef gas range is acting up. Sometimes only half of the burner lights. The half facing the pilot light always ignites, but the other half and the front section don't always catch, making it necesary for us to use a long candle or match to get full ignition. Is the burner defective?—Raymond Poche, Baton Rouge, La.

I wouldn't think so. Rather, there are two common reasons for partial ignition. The more likely one is grease that has run over the burner from cooking and is clogging some ports, making it difficult for the flame to jump. Turn off the knobs controlling gas flow to the burner and remove the burner from the oven. Get your kit of drills from the workshop and determine which drill size fits the gas ports. Select the next smallest size drill and carefully ream out each port by hand.

Return the burner to the oven and try it out. If the condition prevails, then what probably has happened is that there was a manufacturing error and one or more gas ports were not drilled into the burner. Remove the burner from the oven and measure the spacing between ports. Let's say that ports are measuring $^{3}/_{16}$ in. apart and you run across a spacing which is $^{5}/_{16}$ in. Flame has a tough time jumping the extended space, which accounts for delayed ignition. Extended spaces are most likely to be found at bends in the burner.

If you find incorrect spacing, indicating missing ports, have a service-man replace the burner or drill out the necessary additional holes.

Off and running

My General Electric refrigerator (Model TB 14S), which I bought in November 1975, seems to run excessively. The GE serviceman advises that the refrigerator is programmed to run 61 percent of the time. Is he right? If so, is there anything I can do to reduce the running time?—Jim Blair, Toledo, Ohio

Yes and no, Jim. Yes—he's right. No—as long as there's no mechanical problem such as a low-grade freon leak, there's nothing you should do to reduce running time. My answers are based on the premise that food is being kept properly.

Although newer-model refrigerators run more frequently than their predecessors, they are actually more efficient from an energy-consumption standpoint. The use of smaller rotary-type compressor motors is given the credit. You should consider yourself lucky. Whereas your 14-cu.-ft. nonfrost-free model runs 61 percent of the time, the new 18-cu.-ft. and larger frost-free refrigerators are programmed to run almost 90 percent of the time.

Hot line for fixers

Here are two toll-free telephone numbers to keep handy if you own appliances made by Whirlpool or Westinghouse. You can call them to get advice about problems and how you may resolve them, or if you just want to air a complaint.

The toll-free number for Westinghouse is 800-245-0600. For Whirlpool it's 800-253-1301. ★★★

If you have a question about any appliance, send it to Appliance Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N. Y. 10019. Sorry, but letters cannot be answered individually. Problems of wide interest will be discussed in this column.

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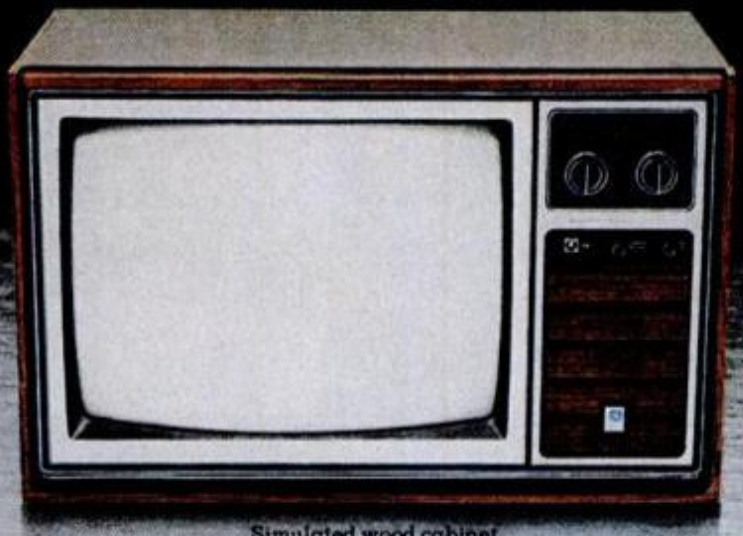

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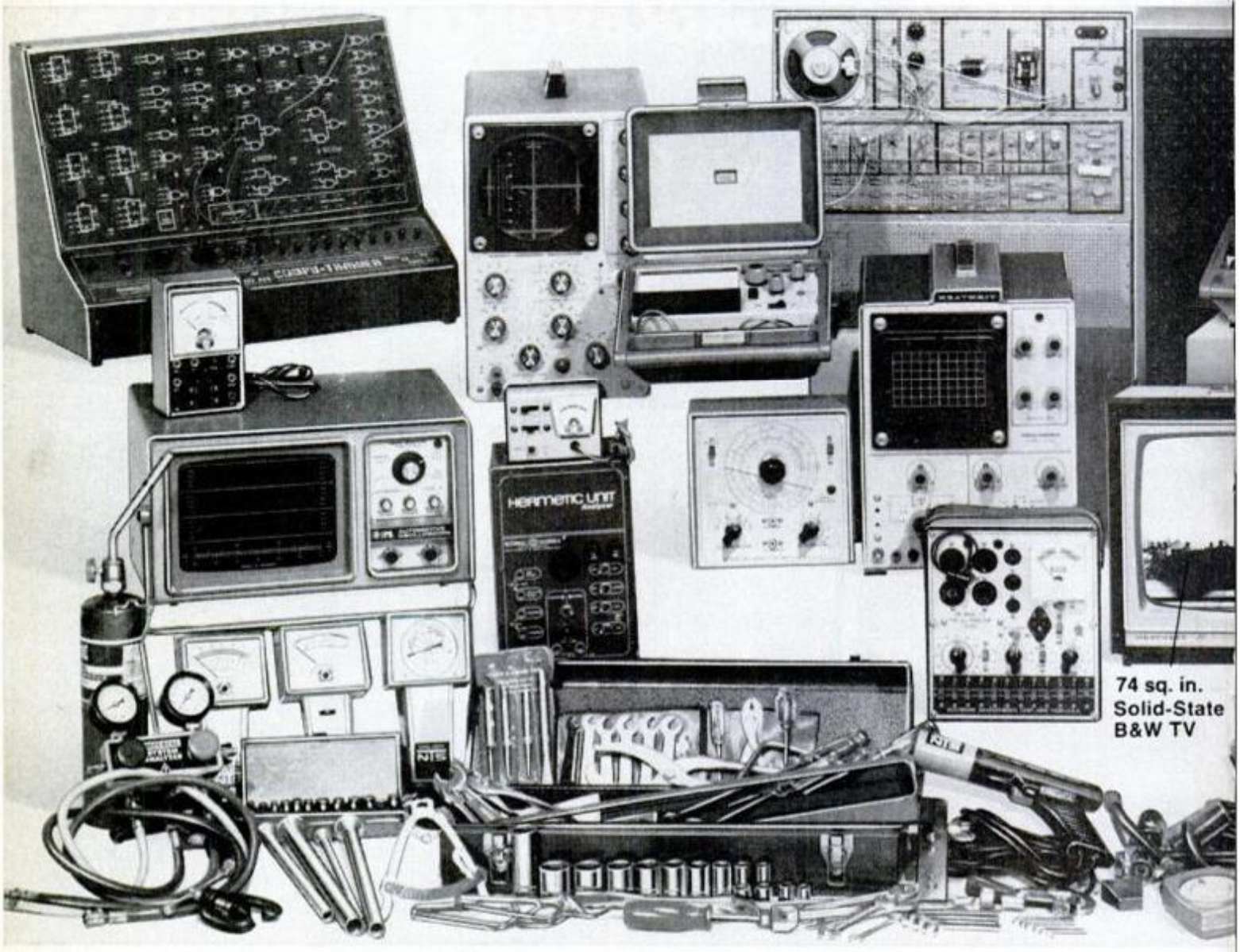

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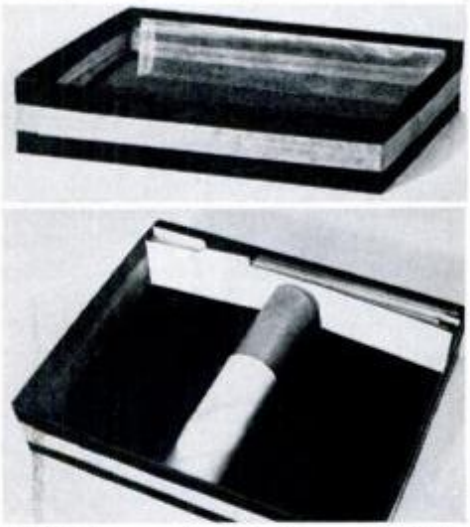
PHOTO HINTS

FROM READERS

Easy cost-free negative files



With film coming in 20 or 36 shots per roll, we 35-mm photographers wind up with a lot of negatives to file.

I file mine in storage files made from empty 100-sheet 8x10 enlarging-paper boxes. It takes two such boxes to make a file: I cut the bottom out of one and stack it over the other, then carefully tape the two together (top), both inside and out. That makes a box just the right size to hold six-negative strips of 35-mm film in glassine envelopes.

To keep the envelopes from shifting in the box, I prop them up with a telescoping tube made from two toilet-paper roll cores, one crimped down to jam into the other. As the box fills, cut the tube shorter. When it's full, take the tube out. It works and it's all free.—*Grace B. Weinstein.*

Painted cap saves missed shots

The usual black or chrome lens caps blend in with a black-and-chrome camera so it's easy not to notice it's on. Paint your lens cap a bright color so you won't forget to remove it. It'll be easier to find if you drop it, too.

—*Doug Neitzel.*

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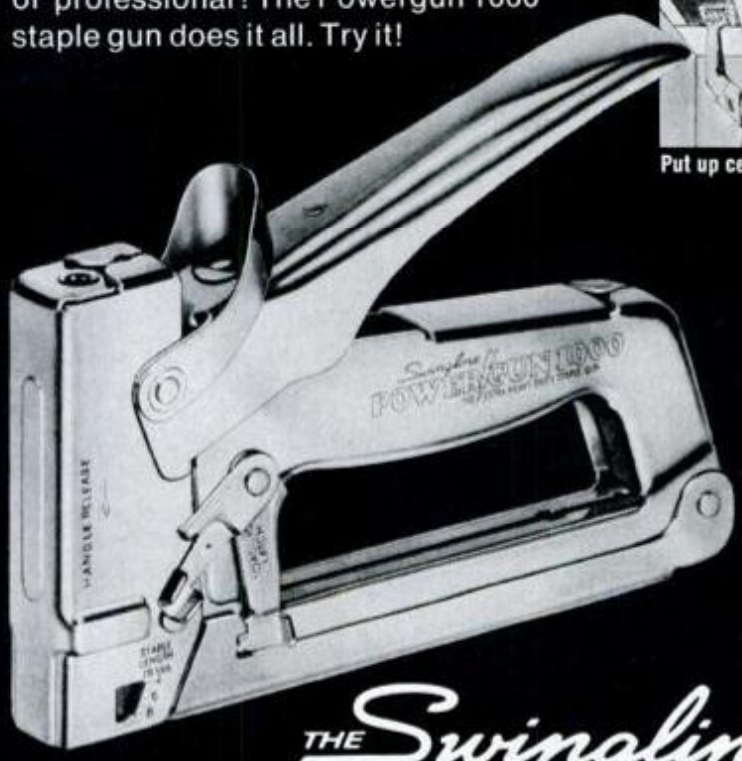

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YOUR MOTORCYCLE

How to body English your bike and be a better rider

By Bill Hampton

If you're a serious motorcyclist, you take pride in the way you handle a motorcycle. A good place to practice handling is a paved, empty parking lot. It's ideal for "feeling out" your bike's personality, because it's similar to the surfaces you ride on normally, if you are a street rider. And if you're getting into dirt riding, first practice on a smooth dirt field. Then gradually accustom yourself to rougher terrain, as your skill and confidence increase.

Even if you're a veteran rider, you can still improve your skills by undertaking the techniques in this article. Especially if you've just got hold of a new set of wheels.

Before we start specific exercises, let's get loose with that machine. Don't sit on it as though you're coming down with rigor mortis. Be relaxed, but alert. Try to be fluid in all movements. Remember: That critter is an extension of *you*.

Body English in action: A trials rider balances his motorcycle and changes direction while almost standing still.

Start with figure-8s

You could start by cutting some wide figure-8s. Get to know how far you can lay the bike over before it grounds or the tires lose adhesion. Be careful, though: There's a fine line between traction and spilling at sharp bank angles.

By cutting figure-8s, you get to know how that two-wheeler feels banked to both sides.

Gradually tighten up each succeeding figure-8 you make. Naturally, the tighter the turns, the slower you'll be traveling. Keep both feet on the footrests. Dragging the turn-side foot not only looks sloppy, but it tends to interfere with the bike's balance and control.

Keep cutting smaller and smaller 8s until the handlebar is almost at full lock. When you get to that point, you'll have to make use of body English to keep the bike from falling into the center of the turn. So now you must lean to the opposite side in which the bike is turning to maintain balance.

During low-speed turns, you'll get even better control by standing up —or crouching—on the footrests. The motorcycle will respond more quickly to your movements when you're poised on the footrests, for the reason that your body's center of gravity is placed farther away from the cycle's center of gravity, so that you have more leverage to exert against the machine.

The quick turn

Body English also comes into play in the "quick turn" maneuver, in which the motorcycle is tilted quickly to the side. The idea is to throw the machine off course momentarily to avoid something in its path.

By simultaneously pulling up on one handlebar grip and pushing down on the other one, you can make the motorcycle veer to the down-grip side to avoid something.

This technique is important to master, because it can keep you from running into some object that suddenly pops up in front of you out of the road. Immediately after

(Please turn to page 27)

QUICK-TURN TECHNIQUE

Potholes can be killers. Sometimes you don't see them until you're on them. Throw your bike off its course and around the obstacle with this technique.

Minimize unavoidable impacts by lightening the front end: Move your body back, pull up on handlebars and apply throttle.

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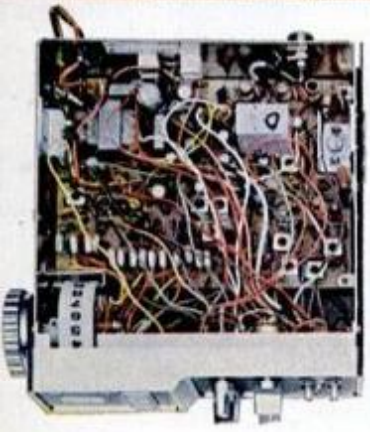

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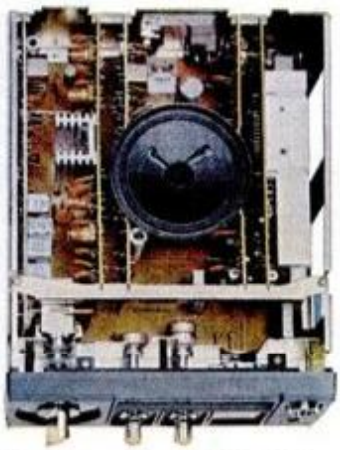

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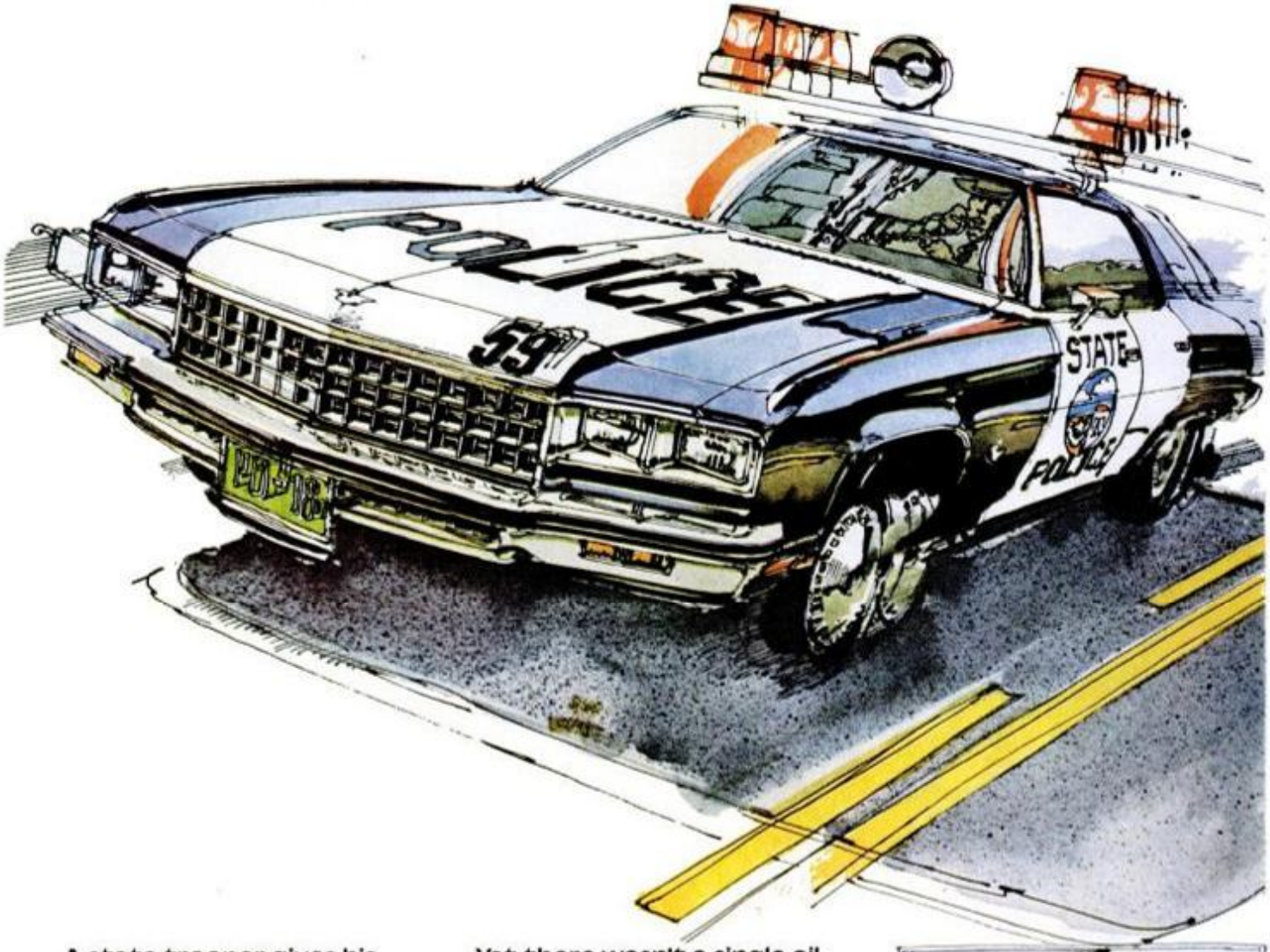

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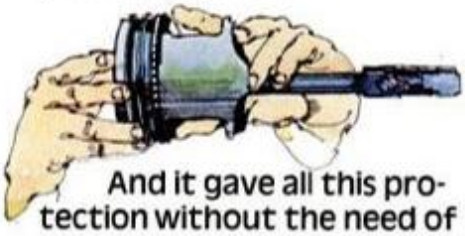

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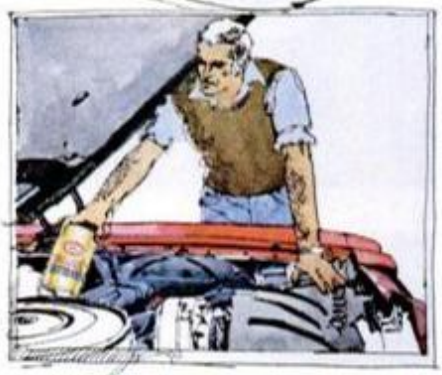

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(Continued from page 24)

initiating the push/pull action on the grips, bring the bike back into line by push/pulling on the grips in the other direction.

Try a slalom

Another good technique for learning how to use body English to control your bike is the slalom ride. Lay out a straight line of pylons, paper cups or plates, or some other similar objects, placed several feet apart. At first, place the pylons far enough apart so that you can weave in and out of them rather easily. As you become used to the bike's behavior, gradually close up the distances between the pylons until you have to travel quite slowly, swinging your body from side to side to maintain control.

To make this exercise more difficult, place boundary lines on both sides of the row of markers, or pylons, so that you have to stay within a certain maneuvering space.

Take it slow

For improving your balance and low-speed control, try slow racing. The object behind this exercise is to see how slowly you can ride without losing your balance and stalling the engine or putting a foot down.

To make slow racing more interesting, stay within boundary lines, set a few feet apart, for at least 30 feet. You'll find yourself using body English to stay within bounds. It takes good balance, working both the clutch and gas to control that machine at a creeping pace.

Competing with other riders makes slow racing fun. Naturally, the last one to the finish line who doesn't stall or lose his balance is the winner. For individual riders, this event can be timed.

For further improving your balance and control, try riding on a straight line or a plank. This exercise is a real test of balance and control, too. Or you could lay out an S-shaped section, 6 to 12 inches wide, and 30 to 40 feet long. Try staying within the boundary lines as you negotiate the curved path.

Safe braking

Learn how to stop your bike safely in the shortest possible distance. Bringing a motorcycle to a safe halt can be somewhat tricky, considering its peculiar stability and traction problems, along with its independent braking system.

For maximum stopping power, you must use both brakes together. Keep in mind, too, that the front brake has *three* times more braking capacity than the rear brake. Besides the front and rear brakes, there is a "third brake"—engine compression.

By downshifting through the gears as the brakes are applied, you can reduce stopping distance even more than if you just used the brakes.

However, the retarding effect of a four-stroke engine is greater than a two-stroke engine. Keep that in mind when you switch bikes with different engine designs. The two-stroke jockey has to work the brakes a little harder to compensate for lack of effective engine compression.

Many cyclists, particularly beginners, shy away from working the front brake very hard. They fear locking up the front wheel and spilling. But as long as the ground surface is firm and dry, the front brake can be applied quite hard without its locking up the wheel. You do have to develop a sensitivity to the brakes and learn just how much pressure can be applied to them to stop the bike without skidding.

Braking can be practiced progressively. Start out somewhere around 20 to 25 mph and practice stopping in the shortest possible distance.

When you reach that point, increase the speed by 10 to 15 mph and again practice decelerating until you've learned to stop in the shortest distance.

Depending on the space you have available to practice in, gradually work up to higher speeds that you would normally ride at on the highway. In fact, you'll probably have to go out on the road to continue your higher-speeds braking technique. But make sure there's no traffic. Find a little-used road.

Stopping on a spot

Back on the parking lot, you might want to try another little braking exercise: spot stopping. With this exercise, you stop your machine so that its front tire rests on a predesignated point or "spot." There are different ways to do this. If you have the room, one is to select a spot 50 or more yards away after you've built up some speed, and "aim" for it. See how close you can come to stopping with your front tire resting on it.

Another way is to make a succession of stops on a series of predesignated points. For instance, you could lay out the points by marking a number of Xs on the ground or by using the lines that separate parking-lot stalls. Have the stopping points far enough apart so that you can build up speed between them.

To make this exercise even more

(Please turn to page 28)

Weaving bike in and out of slalom setup with closely spaced paper plates (above) is good exercise in balance and control. Spinning doughnuts (as shown top right) is fun, of course, but it also teaches control of your machine under awkward or emergency situations. The power slide shown at right is being deliberately executed by a competition rider. Note how he maintains control of the bike by turning the front wheel in the same direction that the rear is sliding.

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(Continued from page 27)

challenging, keep your feet on the footrests as you come to a stop; then, without putting a foot down, see how long you can maintain balance, before you start off for the next point.

Practice in the dirt

You should also learn how your motorcycle handles on loose surfaces. Even if you're strictly a road rider, you never know when you'll hit a section of rough dirt road or a paved road covered with stones, sand and dirt.

And if you've never learned how to handle your two-wheeler on such surfaces, you stand a good chance of overcontrolling and spilling when you do come upon them suddenly.

When you first ride on rough or loose terrain, you might be a bit apprehensive at the motorcycle wanting to "wander" around a little. Let it go. It's just picking the best path for itself. If you fight the bike's movements, you'll only interfere with its self-stabilizing tracking.

Stay loose

If you poise your weight on the footrests, you won't mind that bike shifting around underneath. You'll have better control and your legs will act as shock absorbers, putting less strain on the rest of your body.

And if you suddenly come upon some obstacle that your bike can get over, switch your weight to the rear (while still up on the footrests) and jerk up on the handlebars at the same time you grab a handful of throttle.

If you can coordinate these actions, you'll lighten the front end so it either clears the obstacle completely or climbs easily over it.

Of course, it depends on the size of the bike, too. Don't try to play leapfrog over a tree stump with a 1200-cc Harley-Davidson. You have to use a little common sense as to what you can actually do with your motorcycle.

Another technique that you can learn in the dirt and adapt to the street is the "cross-up."

Advanced exercises

Here's how it works: Get your bike moving at about 15 to 20 mph and jam on the rear brake. Don't touch the front brake. Now if you lean slightly to the side *opposite* the rear-brake pedal, the locked-up rear wheel will slide out to the outside. In other words, the rear end of the bike is kicked out to the opposite side you're leaning.

With your lean-side foot down on the ground for support and the rear brake kept on, you turn the front wheel toward the same side the rear wheel is going.

With this technique, you can control a rear-end slide or turn the bike abruptly. When you master the cross-up at one speed stage, try it at a slightly higher speed.

That's another secret of becoming the motorcycle's master: learning a technique in stages.

Once you have the bike leaned over, don't let it back up. If you

(Please turn to page 32)

Climbing over an obstacle like this is easy for an expert trials rider who's mastered the art of body English. Wear a helmet until you can do it without falling!

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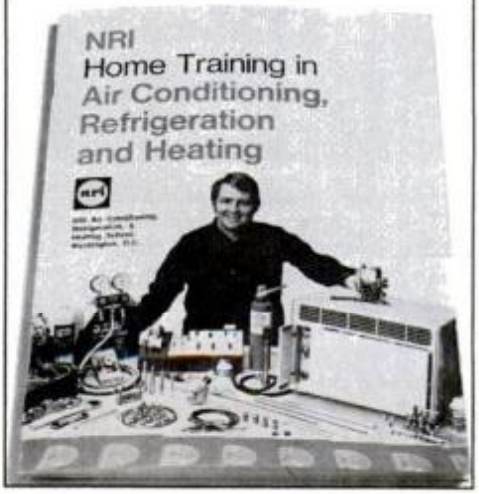

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YOUR MOTORCYCLE

(Continued from page 28)

do, it'll "slingshot" you right over the handlebars.

After you really have the hang of executing the cross-up with the aid of the rear brake, try it by using the throttle instead of the brake. So get the bike's speed back down to 15 to 20 mph again.

Now lean the bike slightly to one side and turn on the gas. As the back wheel slides away, you turn the front wheel toward the same side the rear wheel is going.

By using the throttle to control the cross-up, you can turn the bike abruptly by power sliding it.

Mastering the cross-up and power slide techniques first in the dirt can help you control a skid or avoid some other danger later out on the road.

A variation of the cross-up and power slide is the "donut." To cut a donut (with the bike stationary) put a foot down for support and lean the bike. Turn the front wheel in toward the direction of lean. As you release the clutch, grab a handful of throttle and . . . HOLD ON!

The motorcycle will proceed to "chase its tail" as it spins around. The donut technique is just another exercise that teaches you how to control a motorcycle under awkward conditions.

Does it have any practical value for the street rider? Suppose you're sitting behind a car at a red light, waiting for the green. Glancing in your mirror, you notice a car bearing down on you.

What can you do? Having mastered the donut technique, you lay your bike over to the curb side and gas it. As your machine and you spin around and jump up over the curb, the car squeals to a stop—right where you were sitting a split second ago.

Knowing how to control your bike can save your life. ★★★

Rear chain must be tensioned properly for your bike to respond smoothly and surely to throttle and clutch controls. Free play should be ½ to ¾ inch at a point midway between the sprockets.

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HOMEOWNERS' CLINIC

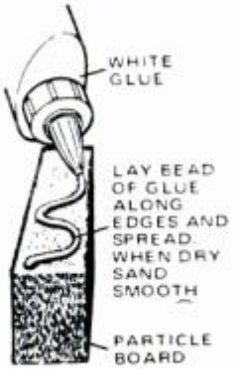
Paint peels on concrete

I've been unsuccessful in keeping paint from peeling off my concrete steps. The steps are exposed to the weather and fresh paint peels away in a few months at most. What can I do?—Victor W. Herriman, Tawas City, Mich.

Concrete steps of the permanent type are usually poured over a fill. Moisture rises from this fill and penetrates the concrete, causing the paint to peel from the surface. You don't say what paint you've used, but if you can remove it entirely, either by brushing or with a remover, I would suggest applying a masonry paint. It is compounded to resist peeling due to moisture.

Smoothing rough board edges

I bought a panel of chipboard to make a cabinet door. I got several fine slivers in my fingers and a small cut in one palm when I was handling the board. How can I finish the edges to prevent slivers?—O.J. *Shepard, Carbondale, Ill.*



This problem is easily solved by coating the edges with a glue you apply in a curving bead as shown. Smooth the bead to both edges with your finger. When the glue has dried, sand it smooth and round the corners of the board slightly.

Cleaning and polishing marble

There is a slab of marble in our bathroom which is many years old. It appears quite dingy, and I'm wondering if there isn't some way of cleaning and brightening it so that it's more presentable. What do you suggest?—Francis A. Herrling, Center Moriches, N.Y.

If, as you say, the slab surface is only "dingy," meaning that it's dull in appearance, you might be able to clean it by rubbing with a very fine No. 320-grit abrasive. If possible, you should remove the slab and place it on a bench or table. Attach the abrasive to a block of wood faced with felt, and work first in circular stokes, then in long strokes, keeping the surface wet with a mild, soapy solution. Dry the surface occasionally and note the progress.

This procedure will produce a matte finish. For a high polish use a fine powdered abrasive, 600 grit, wetted to form a creamy paste and applied with a saturated cloth. Commercial marble cleaners are also available.

Mildew in closets and drawers

My home is about 50 years old and is built on concrete piers. Mildew often forms on clothes in closets and drawers in several of the rooms. How do I solve this problem?—Fred N. Boggus, Harlingen, Tex.

Lack of adequate ventilation and excessive moisture is the basic cause of your trouble. I'd suggest you look into purchasing a dehumidifier. You might also consider installing louvered doors on your closets to permit air circulation. To eliminate mildew in drawers, try rearranging the furnishings—moving chests of drawers from a corner to another location. You might leave the drawers of fixed installations slightly open for an hour or so each day. Also, reduce the output of your furnace humidifier.

Cracked concrete patio

My concrete patio is 10 x 20 ft. and 4 in. thick. It has cracked all the way across the width. The crack is now about ¼ in. wide. What would cause it to crack like this, and how can I repair it?—Jaime D. Tamayo, San Diego, Calif.

Judging from your description of the crack and its location, I think the probable cause is inadequately tamped fill under the concrete. Also, it is possible that the soil under the concrete is unstable. You can repair the crack, at least temporarily, by mixing cement and sand to a creamy consistency. Before you fill the crack be sure that all dirt and any other residues have been removed. Then wet the concrete just before pouring the filler mix. Pour the mix into the crack, allowing for a very slight overfill. Then sweep away the excess, cover the work with straw, grass clippings or a coarse fabric and keep this dampened for a few days. This should give the pouring a chance to cure.

Water siphons from toilet

Water in the toilet bowl in my basement frequently siphons out, allowing gas to enter. My home is on a dead-end street and the sanitary line ends at that point. Can you suggest a cure for this problem?—Wayne Brounlee, Larned, Kans.

I'm guessing, based on the information you give, that the most likely cause for the water siphoning out is sluggish drainage of the sanitary line at its end, perhaps as a result of partial clogging. It could also be a backing from the sanitary line into your drain. I'd suggest you consult the sanitary department of your city. It should help you with the solution.

Laying brick on wood flooring

We would like to lay brick flooring in our family room which presently is covered with wood. Can we lay the brick directly over the wood?—W.A. Wood, North Hampton, Mass.

Yes, you can lay brick directly over the wood flooring, although the brick floor will be higher than the flooring in adjoining rooms. Minimize this problem by using paving bricks which are only ¼ to ½ in. thick. Better yet, take up the finish boards, cover subfloor with plywood and lay the paving bricks on this.

Painting acoustical tiles

We have stained acoustical tiles on our basement ceiling. Can they be painted?—George Watkins, Santa Rosa, Calif.

You can paint acoustical tile. Use either a latex or alkyd paint. Just don't apply it too thick. Coat your ceiling only enough to give it a satisfactory covering. This will assure a smooth coat. ★★★

Do you have a home maintenance or repair problem? Send it to Homeowners Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. Letters cannot be answered individually, but problems of wide interest will be discussed in this column. For more home repair and maintenance help, get PM's Home Care Guide, $4.49 postpaid. Send orders to PM, Dept. HCG, Box 1014, New York, N.Y. 10019.

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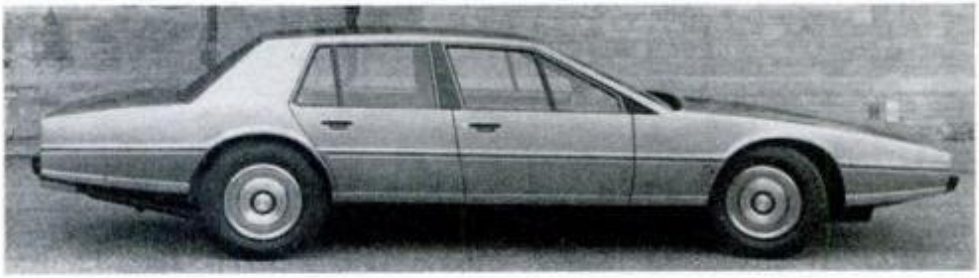
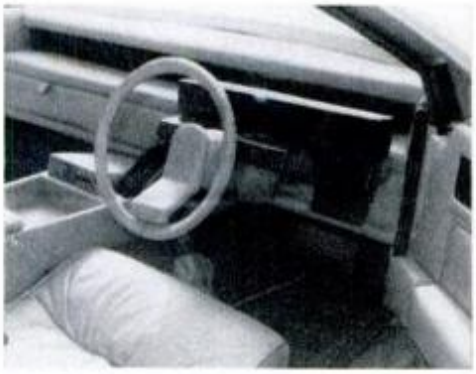
BY BILL HARTFORD

IMPORTS AND MOTORSPORTS



Aston Martin Lagonda

Inertial-guidance navigation is about the only thing missing on Aston Martin's futuristic, four-place transportation capsule. The striking, stiletto-shaped car, now on sale in England, and to be here in late '77, revives the Lagonda marque (the origin of Lagonda is a story in itself: The company was started by Wilbur Gunn who left Ohio and settled in England. His cars, first assembled in 1900, were called Lagonda—a word derived from the



Indian name for Buck Creek near his old home town in America!)

Even more fascinating than the execution of the car's aluminum body is the radical interior. The electronically controlled dash display for the pilot is digital and graphic and initiated by touch switches. It may take astronaut training to fathom some of the readouts, like those for average and instantaneous speed, fuel consumption, elapsed time and distance. Even Neil Armstrong might just

ignore all that, check the date on the digital clock, adjust the position of the pedals with the steering wheel switch and head down to the corner for a loaf of bread.

The Lagonda is a luxury car, but one with real performance. You get 0 to 60 in 7 seconds and a top speed of 140—hardly escape velocity but fast enough for most mortals. Aston Martin's 5.4-liter V8 gives the kick, while four ventilated discs and special, 7-inch-wide GR 70 VR 15 radials bring you back to earth fast—but not fast enough to require a "G" suit. It's the price that's high G's: 24 of them. Aston Martin Lagonda in the United States is at Box 358, 650 Clark Ave., King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

New MGB dash

At the low-price end of England's range of sporty cars is British Leyland's $5000 MGB. The old design gets some nice refinements for '77: Two electric fans replace the belt-driven fan, front and rear antiroll bars are added, full carpeting is standard and there's more. But the change I especially welcome is the revised interior. As shown above, the steering wheel is new, too.

1977 280-Z

The Z-car or Zed, however you want to refer to it, has achieved such popularity since its introduction in 1970 that it's hardly necessary to identify it as a Datsun, but that's what it is in case you didn't know. The '77 edition gets quite a few new features. An optional five-speed overdrive transmission leads the list. Also new are the bumpers and wheel covers (shown below), hood slots and a space-saving spare tire. At the controls you'll notice new radio, seat coverings, padded armrest on the lidded console and other amenities. And Zs—in coupe or 2+2 versions—are still pretty good values starting at $7000 and $7800, respectively.

World's first motorcycle

I love this old wood-frame two-wheeler and always stop by the Mercedes-Benz museum to see it whenever I'm near Stuttgart, Germany. Gottlieb Daimler's dream machine was first ridden in 1885, powered by the ½-hp, air-cooled Single developed by Daimler and his engineer, Wilhelm Maybach. Daimler even had a go-in-snow version that was to have a front runner and a cogged rear wheel. That one was never built, but it's fun imagining what a 1977 Mercedes-Benz snowmobile would be like! ★★★

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John P. MacLean
Milton, Mass.

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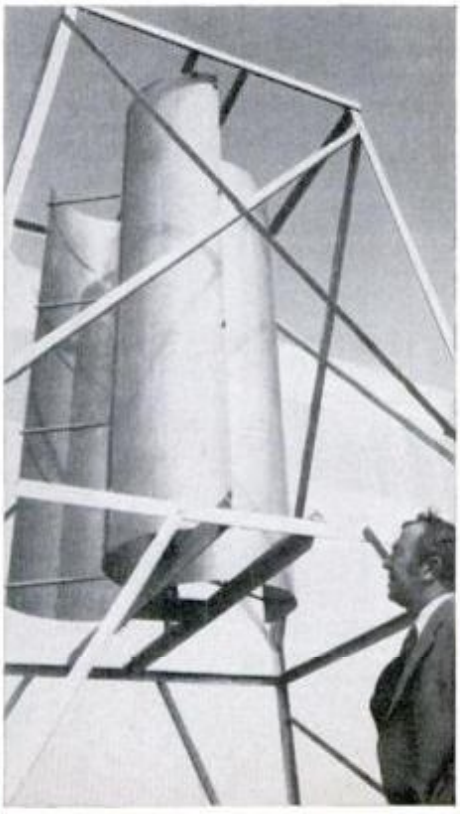
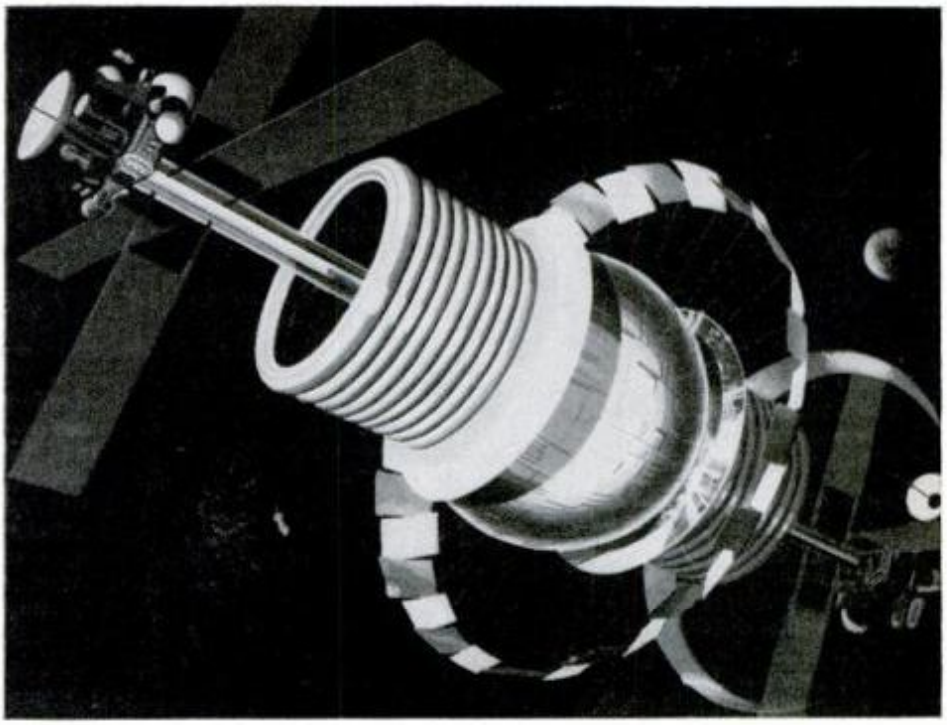




Space manufacturing colonies for NASA

Outer space habitats for as many as 10,000 people have now been proposed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The preliminary design above, an adaptation of plans reported earlier in PM (see Cities in the Sky, page 94, May '75), is part of a just-completed NASA study on space manufacturing. The habitats would be used by a workforce living on the inner surface of a one-mile-diameter rotating sphere, shielded against radiation. The sphere revolves to produce artificial gravity similar to Earth's. Crops would be grown outside the shielded area. Docking and zero-gravity industrial areas are located at each end. The structure would be assembled in space from material mined on the moon.

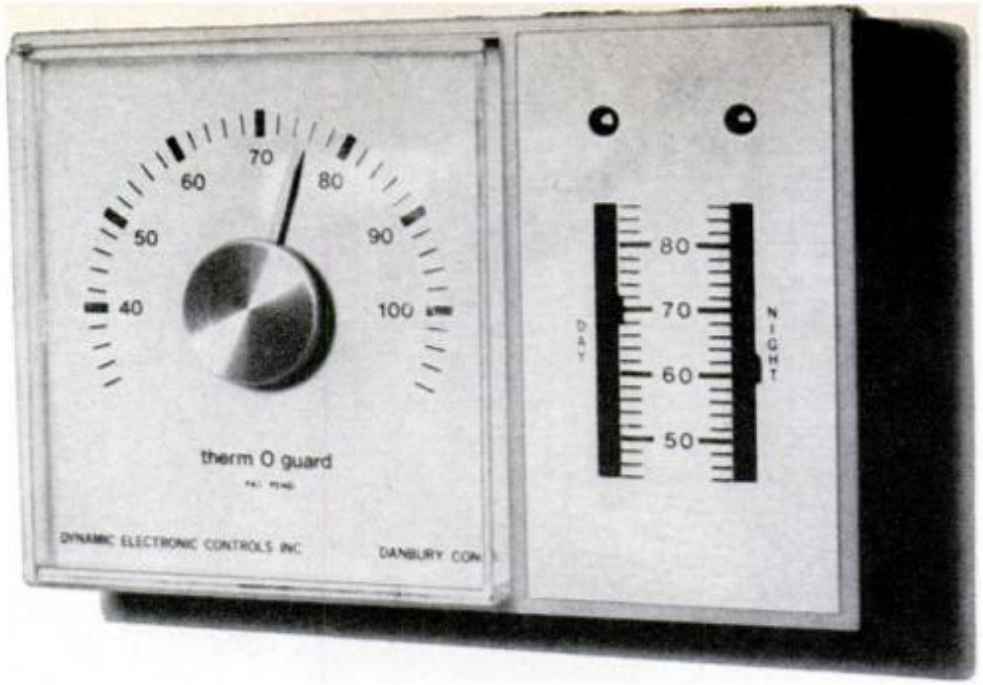
Tool for tight spots

New high-speed flexible-shaft tool from Dremel has fingertip control for precision grinding, sanding, drilling, carving, engraving and other delicate operations. It takes standard Dremel assessories, is $59.95 at hobby and hardware stores.

Drawer kits for easy assembly

If you shy away from the work of making drawers from scratch, you can easily put together these precut drawers with only a hammer and screwdriver. They mount in metal frames with nylon rollers for smooth sliding and come in four sizes from 6 by 16 inches up to 8 by 24 inches. Fronts are available in three styles. Prices from $30 to $42. Drawerkit Sales, Box 36, Alden, Mich. 49612.

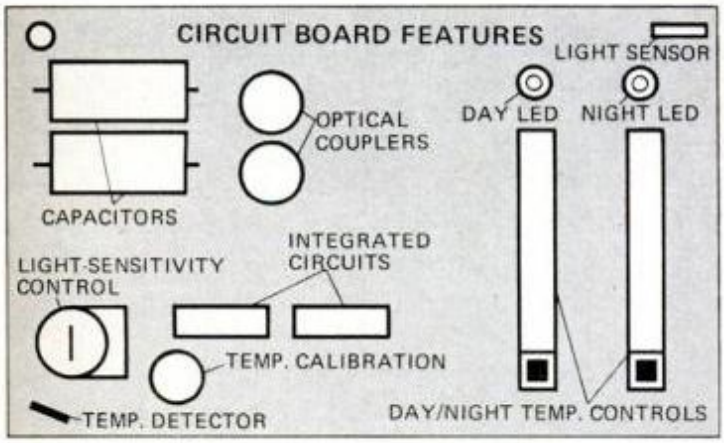
You control the light-sensitivity adjustment which automatically switches between the independent day and night thermostat scales. You can cut the price by building the kit board.



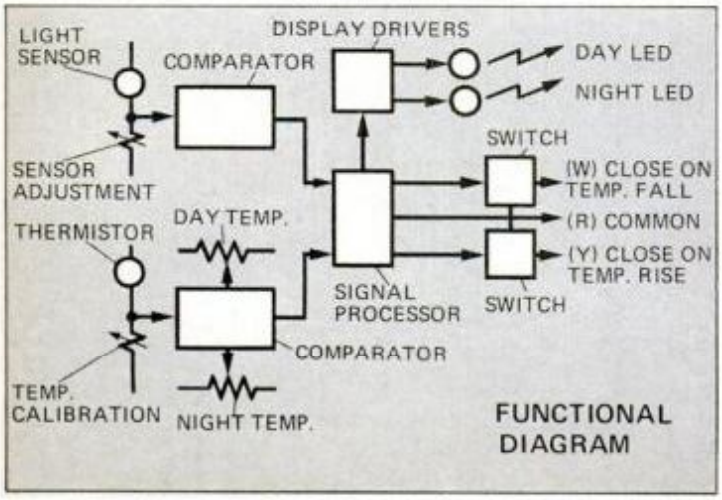
HOW TO ORDER KITS

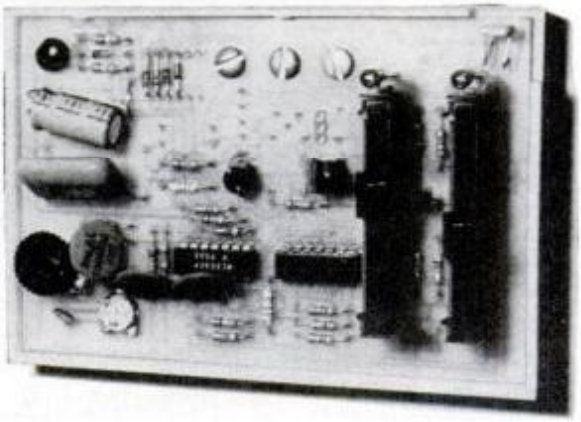
You can order the thermostat in kit form or fully assembled. The kit ($54.95) comes with assembly instructions and all components for the circuit board. The set-up unit is $79.95. Send your order to Popular Mechanics, Dept. TH, Box 1014, Radio City Station, New York, N.Y. 10019.

A smart thermostat you build from a kit



In high light, the comparator signals the digital processor to to select output from the day-temperature comparator. In reduced light, the night comparator activates the lower night-temperature setting. The electronic circuit board (above right) is screwed to a mounting plate on the wall.





An easy way to save heat energy is to turn your thermostat down at night and back up in the morning. It is sensible but results in your going to sleep and waking up in a chilly house.

This unit, made by Dynamic Electronic Controls, Inc., 41 Kenosia Ave., Danbury, Conn. 06810, can cycle your heating system *without* a complicated clock-timing mechanism. Instead, a light-sensing cell automatically switches between day and night modes that have independent controls you can set in advance.

The unit is sold for $79.95 (or $54.95 if you buy it in kit form) so it pays you to put it together. The kit will take you a few hours to assemble and instructions are included for setting up the circuit board.

We installed the unit in a matter of minutes. First, disconnect the power supply and be sure to mark the old thermostat wires as you detach them. If you get mixed up, you can refer to the instructions with the unit which include typical wiring diagrams for gas and oil heating and cooling systems.

The light-sensitivity adjustment controls the level of light (from any source) required to trigger the setting on the day scale. For example, you can adjust the sensitivity so a little light from a bedside lamp will activate the day setting. Turn the lamp off and the furnace switches to the lower night setting. Unlike a preset clock thermostat, this system responds to your living habits, even if they change from day to day.—*Mike McClintock, Home and Shop Editor*

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Portable 200,000 CANDLEPOWER SUPER SPOTLIGHT

Turn night into day! More powerful than most airplane landing lights. 5 times as powerful as car headlights. Gives off wide angle mile long beam. Actually gives more light than the distance requires. Dozens of uses: Drivers, boaters, campers, emergency, etc. Features: sealed beam lamp; on/off switch; 10-ft heavy duty cord; cigarette lighter-type plug; UL listed; 2-3 hours constant use with motor "off". Plugs into any car, truck, boat cigarette lighter. 10" long, 5½" diameter.
□ 4037. Super Spotlight $15.95

JR01 Electric Computer

Solve Problems. Learn Data Processing. Helps you win games of chance such as cards, dice, betting, etc. Play games of logic and strategy. A true computer in miniature developed and made by Electronic Data Controls Corp. in conjunction with Honeywell. Easy to program. Fun to operate. Learn principles of full-scale electronic computers. Heavy duty, 2-color molded plastic unit, 16x10x3". Battery operated. **Originally sold for $34.95, now offered in easy-to-assemble set for only $9.95.**
□ 6512. Electric Computer $9.95

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Lifts up to **100 Pounds SOLID STEEL!** Even more underwater. **GO TREASURE HUNTING.** Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Newly developed alnico. Pocket size.
4005. Lifts 50 lbs. ... $1.95
4055. Lifts 100 lbs. .. $3.50

1000 TINY MAGNETS

Fantastic fun bargain. Do tricks, stunts, experiments. Arrange in millions of patterns. Stick together with own power. Easy to change. Each 1/8x1/8x1/16".
2008. 1000 Magnets $1.49

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□ 1018. "Things Free" Directory ... 89¢

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Surplus Bargain. Fast, Powerful. 2500 rev/minute. Drive cars, boats, planes, models, experiments, pumps, mixers, etc. Self-starting. Ready to run. Reversible. Runs on 1 battery. □ 4920. 69¢. **3 for $1.95**

Sun Battery & Solar Cell

Generates electricity from light. Powers radios, motors, lights, etc. No batteries necessary. Also use as a powerful photocell or electric eye. Turn lights on or off, operate electric appliances, open or close doors, etc. Get several for added power.
□ 4924. Sun Battery (3/1.75) ..... 65¢

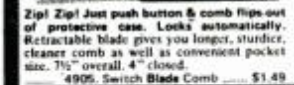
Have Fun & Entertain

Bargain Price $2.95

Ventriloquist Dummies

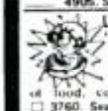
Full length 16-inch dummies with control to operate mouth & move head. Learn to throw your voice & entertain friends. Make them sit, stand, even dance & act alive! Fully dressed in colorful clothing. Moulded plastic. Natural finish. Movable arms & legs.
6156. Archy The Dummy $2.95
6075. Dumbo The Clown $2.95

Automatic Switch - Action Comb $1.49



Zip! Zip! Just push button & comb flips out of protective case. Locks automatically. Retractable blade gives you longer, sturdier, cleaner comb as well as convenient pocket size. 7½" overall, 4" closed.
4905. Switch Blade Comb $1.49

Live Sea Monkeys $1.25



Hatch entire family of exciting pets in 5 minutes. Watch them grow, play, etc. Easy to care for. With year's supply of food, complete handbook of tricks.
□ 3760. Sea Monkeys Complete Set $1.25

Hand Timer 98¢

IMPORT BARGAIN — WHILE THEY LAST.

Fun timer for non professional events such as model races, sports, etc. Full pocket-watch size with chain link. Spring operated. Start and stop button. Sweep hand. Calibrated dial.
2020. Sports & Hobby Timer ..... 98¢

WITH HAIR! Rubber Masks

"Comes To Life"

Natural, life-like, horrible! Thin latex rubber. Clings when worn. Amazingly realistic.
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□ 4717. Savage Gorilla $3.95
□ 4633. Realistic Frankenstein $2.95

Planet Of The Apes Mask

Professionally made. Realistic in every detail. Covers full head. Realistic hair over entire head. Swollen red lips. Facial warts. Flattened nose. Deep set eyes. Clings when worn. Thin, moulded latex rubber.
□ 4999. Deluxe Ape Man Mask ... $9.95

Midget Radio $1.95

Pocket self powered radio with dial tuner. No batteries. No plug. Ready-to-operate. Pulls in radio waves from air. Listen almost anywhere. With private earphone. Size of cigarette pack.
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Pucker Gum. Putrid.
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□ 2735. Pkg. of 5 ... 30¢

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A putdown, barb, wisecrack or snappy comeback for every occasion. Find one to fit every situation, every type person.
□ 1171. Insult Encyclopedia ..... 79¢

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4082. Slot Bank $4.95

Unbeatable Self Defense 95¢

Learn Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Boxing, Wrestling, Muscle Building, Self Defense Tricks. Well illustrated, easy to understand paper covered books. Up to 95 pages long.
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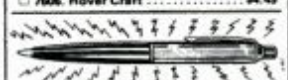
$4.49 AIR CAR

HOVERCRAFT — RIDES ON AIR

New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks, EVEN WATER! Sleek car of the future uses principle of air suspension to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic, 8"x8"x2" high. 4" propeller. 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. **Illustrates frictionless motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use.** Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).
□ 7606. Hover Craft $4.49



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When they borrow your expensive looking ball point pen it causes the sparks to fly. Then push the button and **THEY GET ZAPPED!** The looks and feel of finest pen on market. **Wear in pocket or leave on desk, ready for your next "victim". Never fails. Teaches "snitchers" a lesson.** Expertly made by West German craftsmen. Deluxe in looks & results. With replaceable battery inside.
□ 2965. Shocking Pen $9.95

Only $24.95 WIRELESS RADIO CONTROL RACER

Best mail order ever in radio control cars! Beautiful scale reproductions operate without wires or tracks. You direct movement with wireless hand-held control unit. Available in 2 sleek models: Gran Prix Porsche & Corvette Stingray. Features include: Instant response handling; 2 speeds; single channel radio control; 50-ft. wireless indoor range; 100-ft. wireless outdoor range; hand lacquered body; authentic styling; high-impact plastic body & transmitter; manufacturer's warranty. Not a kit. Comes ready-to-run except for batteries (2 "AA", 2-9v). Each about 7", 1/24 scale.
□ 9515. Gran Prix Porsche ... $24.95
□ 9519. Corvette Stingray $24.95

Star Trek Phaser Set

Authentic replicas of Star Trek instruments.
PHASER: Pistol energy weapon. Emits pulsating beam which dematerializes, disrupts.
TRICORDER: Portable sensor/computer/recorder with midget TV screen.
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Capable of Tremendous lifting power. Do entertaining stunts, advertising effects, science fun. See for miles. 24 ft. around.
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SURPLUS BARGAIN! ONLY $1.95. Turns on lights, bells, horns, sirens, alarms, tape recorders, wireless mikes, etc. Operates by voice, whistle or any sound from across room. Do mysterious tricks & stunts. Great for experimenters, electronic bugs. **NOT A KIT. 2 for only $3.00.**
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Star Trek Coin Medal

Official coin in beautiful jeweler's bronze. Spock, Kirk on one side. Enterprise on reverse. **LIMITED EDITION MINT NUMBER.** Hand engraved, finished. Silver dollar size. Available with matching 24" neckchain-holder.
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Regulation size and style. Heavy duty, steel, with lock and keys. Chrome plated.
9043. Regulation Style Handcuff $4.95
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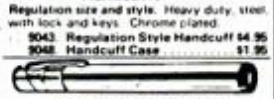

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies 64 times area & 8 power. Attractive finish. Specially priced import bargain.
□ 6724. Spy Scope $1.59

ELECTRIC POLICE SIREN & FLASHLIGHT $2.95

Powerful beam flashlight. Loud, ear-piercing siren. For protection, fun. Heavy duty.
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Midget Spy Camera $1.49

Take secret or regular pictures. Size of pocket watch. Conceal in hand.

Imported bargain. Solid metal construction, chrome trim, view finder. 2½ oz. Takes ten pictures on each roll.
□ 4899. Camera (without case) ... $1.49
□ 4891. Film 3 Rolls (30 Pictures) ... 75¢

Flying Helicopter Goes Up To 100' High! $1.50

Flying authentic replica of helicopter used by armed forces. Giant 16" wingspread. Goes up to 100 feet high. High impact plastic.
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Modern Mini Scientific Crime Lab. Chemical crime detection. Similar tests used by FBI, police. Fingerprinting, fiber identification, flame tests, etc. Carrying case and instructions.
□ 6443. Crime Lab $3.25

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Tiny carbon microphone picks up sounds almost anywhere. Use as sound detector, phono pick-up, amplifier, telephone, etc. Complete except for battery & carphone or speaker. Instructions, experiments included.
□ 2988. Midget Carbon Microphone $1.39

Electric Laughing Bag

Roars with Laughter! Happy, hilarious joke, gift or surprise. Battery operated. Laughs indefinitely.
3070 ... $3.95

Pocket Radio & Transmitter

Broadcast Talking, music, etc. over regular AM band. Also receive all AM radio stations. Complete with speaker & microphone. Wired, just connect & use. Also use as walkie-talkie, intercom, detectophone to monitor sounds in remote places, etc. **Surplus bargain (was $20.00).**
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Pleasant surprise and bargain. Fun or useful. Includes new samples, factory surplus, special novelties, etc. Most worth much more. Money back if not delighted.
2997. Surprise Bargain $1.00

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5-mile range. Dogs respond instantly as if by magic. Used by dog trainers.
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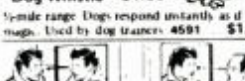

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See without being seen. Convert any window into secret spy mirror. Amazing poly-acetate sheet acts like mirror on one side & as regular window from other side. Trim to any size. Use tape, glue to apply to glass. **For larger areas use 2 or more sheets.**
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Listen almost anywhere! Slips into pocket like ordinary pen. Tiny earphone for private listening. Pulls in radio waves from air. **NO BATTERIES NEEDED.** Ground wire included for best reception but will work without grounding. Guaranteed to receive several stations, although reception will vary from place to place. **Hear SPORTS, MUSIC, NEWS, etc. in office, school, bed, etc.** Solid-state circuit. Complete, ready-to-play. □ 7052. Spy Pen Radio $2.59

X-RAY VISION $1.00

Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion.
□ 3762. XRAY Specs Only ..... $1.00 per Pair

U-Control 7-Foot Life-Size GHOST 95¢

Use Indoors & Outdoors Acts Life-Like

You control in secret. Ready to operate. **Rises, falls, floats, spooky effects, darts, dances. Includes** inflatable **head & white shroud "body"** (about 7-ft. overall) with near invisible 50-ft. control line. Includes detailed instructions.
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Police Style Warning Light. Big dome flashes on & off in bright red light visible far away. With suction cup base. Sticks tightly to any smooth surface like top of car. Runs on flashlight batteries. About 4".
7655. Flasher $1.95

Motorized Submarine $1.95

Sturdy 7½" plastic submarine cuts through water powered by battery operated heavy-duty underwater motor. Runs on pen cell battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed, with adjustable rudder & built in switch.
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Scientific Lightstick $1.69

Ideal Emergency, novelty, scientific light. No electricity or batteries to run down or wear out. No flames. Works underwater and almost any other conditions. Produces 3 hours of useful light & sufficient marker light for 10 more hours. 6" long. Weighs less than 1 oz.
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Great Money Maker! Automatic Mechanical Pickpocket.

Place coins on coffin & gruesome green hand with eerie bony fingers appears like magic from the grave to snatch them.
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Hypnotism Record

Hear a hypnotist in action. 7" 33 LP is example of how people are hypnotized. **Side 1:** Individual & group hypnotism. **Side 2:** Self-hypnotism.
□ 3282. Hypno Record $1.50

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Imperial German's Highest World War 1 award for bravery. Beautifully made in gold finish with gold lettering. Over 2" high. With neck chain.
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WORLD'S SMALLEST TRANSISTOR RADIO

Micro-Mini AM Radio. Only 1⅛" high, 1¼ ounces! Electronic marvel! **Excellent reception guaranteed.** Receives several stations in most areas. So small you can put in pocket, purse or even wear on keychain. Take anywhere to listen to music, news, sports. **Runs for up to 100 hours on 2 tiny easy-to-find hearing aid batteries (included). Ready for instant use.** Dial tuner. No antenna required. Earphone (included) acts as on-off switch. With handy keychain.
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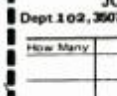

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You've never tried Sebulex.® You still see dandruff. There could be a connection.

There's only one way to judge how effective a dandruff shampoo can be for you.

Try it.

You've probably tried the leading brands. But, if you haven't used Sebulex,® you may have overlooked the one shampoo that works best on your hair and scalp.

Doctors recommend Sebulex for dandruff

When we asked over two hundred skin specialists what product they usually recommend for patients with dandruff or scaling of the scalp, the word came back—Sebulex.

Four times more than the leading dandruff shampoo.

Seven times more than the next largest selling dandruff brand.

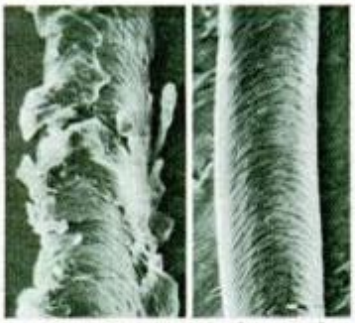
If you're out to control your dandruff, to help stop the oiliness and itching, use what more doctors recommend—Sebulex.

Sebulex cleans away everything in sight

Extra strength cleaning agents in Sebulex penetrate, peel and float away dandruff. They carry medication down to the scalp and follicles of the hair to quickly relieve flaking and itching.

You come away from a Sebulex shampoo with hair that's fresh and really clean, right down to the roots.

And with regular shampooing, it will stay that way.



Magnified hair before and after washing with Sebulex.

A low pH factor

Sebulex has the lowest pH of the leading non-prescription dandruff shampoos.

That's because it contains a special combination of medicated ingredients. They could be the key to the dandruff control you're looking for. Try the medicated action of low pH Sebulex.

All you have to lose is your dandruff.

Effective dandruff control, pleasant to use

The first thing you'll notice is the thick, rich consistency of Sebulex right out of the bottle.

Sebulex builds to a concentrated, creamy lather that really gets dandruff off your back.

Clean, fresh scent

Some people think that a hard working medication can't smell good. Well, Sebulex has a clean, fresh scent that won't advertise that you're using a medicated shampoo. Even when you're up close.

The real proof

This Sebulex story is only proof for the inside of your head.

We'd like to prove it to you on the outside.

Buy Sebulex. Shampoo in the Sebulex medicated lather and look at your hair when it's dry.

That's where we shine.

Clean, green Sebulex® recommended by specialists

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Direct-drive turntable changes records, too

There are lots of direct-drive turntables around, but only this one —the Technics SL-1350—changes records.

Direct-drive combines the turntable platter and the rotor of the driving motor into one assembly, so there's just one moving part for greater reliability and fewer bearings to rumble. Since the motor turns at the same speed as the record—33⅓ rpm instead of the 1800 rpm of most turntable motors—the rumble frequency is down so low you can't hear much of it, either.

Without the momentum of a fast-spinning motor to stabilize them, direct-drives have to use electronic speed control—which turns out to be even more precise, yet makes variable speed easy to design in.

All those virtues, common to many single-play turntables, are unique to the SL-1350 among changers. And it has another virtue no other changer has: It uses the same cartridge shells as most other Japanese arms, so you can swap cartridges between the SL-1350 and your other, manual turntable if you have one (that's an Audio-Technica head it's wearing here, but I had to bend the finger lift down so it wouldn't scrape the bottom of the next record during a change cycle).

I couldn't fault its performance in any respect. But it could use a muting switch, so you don't hear the platter slow a fraction just before the arm is lifted off. And I'd like to see them move one switch (see caption below) to make it more convenient.

—Ivan Berger

Technics SL-1350 is the world's only direct-drive record changer. Unfortunately, you have to set the number of records you're going to play—and the dial for that is way back behind the other controls.

PM photos: Madeline Silver

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The art of making briar pipes

by John A. Linkletter

PM photos: Pierre Caty

A complete briar root, as it looks when it's taken from the earth, is displayed by pipemaker Jacky Berrod. Behind him are heaps of briar blanks cut from root. The blanks will be air-dried for three to six months before they're ready to become pipes.

To anyone who regards his briar pipe as a companion without equal and a source of comfort, the half-century it takes for a briar root to reach maturity and the months spent in turning the root into a pipe seem not too long a time to wait for that mellow product.

And even after those decades, according to Jean LaCroix, a master pipemaker of Saint-Claude, France, "We will make 10,000 pipes to get the absolutely perfect one."

Saint-Claude, which loyal pipe smokers might regard as their personal Mecca, is a town of 15,000 in the High Jura mountains near the Swiss border, where some 5 million briar pipes are produced annually by more than 1000 artisans working in large and small factories and their homes.

The town's tradition of woodcarving goes back to the Middle Ages. It wasn't until 1857, though, that the first briar pipe was carved there from briar root brought up from the Mediterranean area.

The bush must be at least 50 years old for the root to have reached the maturity needed for pipemaking. The search for aged briar is strenuous—through dense countryside thickets of such lands as Greece and Corsica—and it leads to another difficult job: cutting away the branches of the plant and extracting the root. The root can be taken only from late October to April; otherwise, the earth is too hard and dry.

Keeping the root damp so it won't split, the suppliers cut it into *ébauchons*—rough blanks that approximate the final shape of the pipe as determined by the grain of the briar. The blanks are boiled in water to remove the sap, then shipped to the French pipemakers.

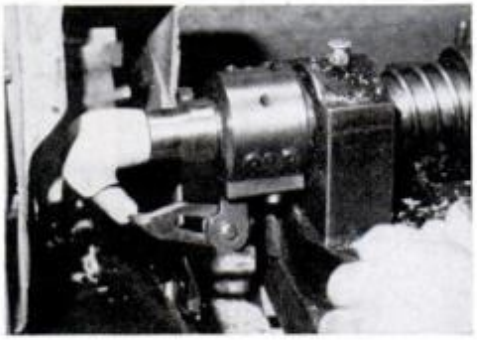
There, visitors can see thousands of blocks—averaging about 3 by 2 by 1½ inches each—air-drying in darkened storerooms, a process that takes three to six months. Once dry, the blocks are selected by size for the model pipe to be produced—and manufacturing begins.

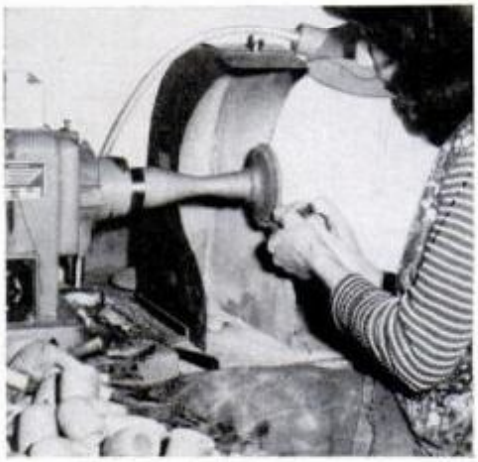
■ Calibrage, the first step, is

(Please turn to page 38H)

The square outline of the briar blank is still apparent as the top of the pipe bowl and the stem begin to take shape.

Lower portion of the bowl is shaped, followed by removal of wood left between turning operations. Then stem is bored.





With mouthpiece fitted, each pipe goes through a variety of sanding and polishing steps. Skilled women do this work.

Pipemaker Pierre Morel is noted for his hand-carved creations that often retain knobby surface texture of the briar root.

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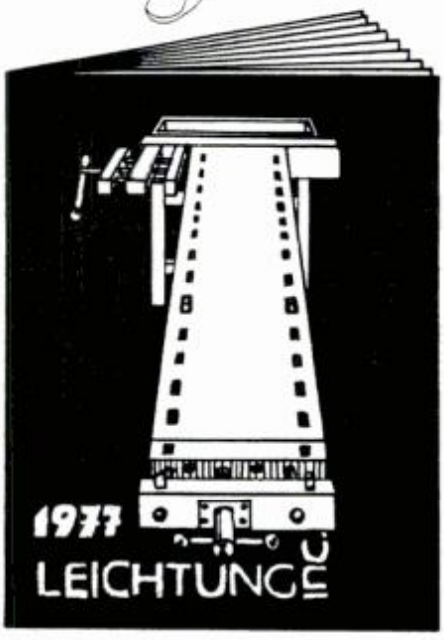

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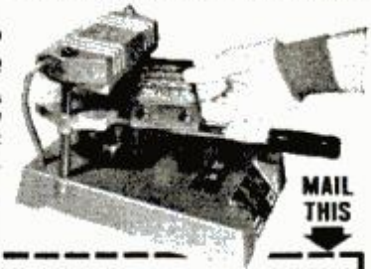

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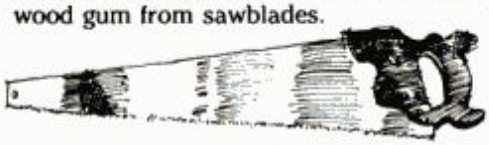

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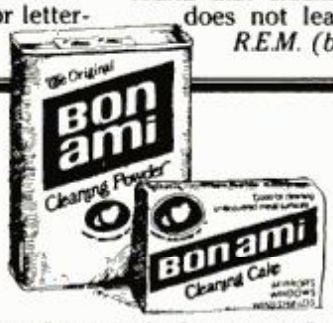
"Your soap is the only brand we've found that cleans our glassware and does not leave a toxic residue." *R.E.M. (biological researcher)*



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ART OF MAKING BRIAR PIPES

(Continued from page 38F)

the cutting of the block by circular saw to the necessary height and thickness. In the Berrod-Regad plant, I watched a worker deftly cut the blocks freehand using neither a guide nor a blade guard.

- **Ebauchage** sends the chips flying as the bowl is turned and bored.
- **Varlopage,** the turning of the briar stem, follows.
- **Fraisage,** the elimination of the wood left in between the two turning operations, is done with a high-speed, multibladed cutter. At this point, the stem is bored.
- **Selection of bowls** into groups of various quality results in about 10 percent being discarded. A skilled man with a file can whisk off some obvious flaws and save a few bowls, and a puttier can fill other flaws to make a bowl acceptable. At this stage, a fitter adjusts a mouthpiece to the briar stem.
- **Polissage,** a variety of sanding, buffing and polishing operations, is mainly the job of women, most of whom learned the skill from their mothers, as they did from theirs.
- **Badigeonnage,** staining, is followed by wax (for a shiny finish) or oil (matte finish). After buffing, the pipe is ready to ship.

Yves Grenard, *directeur general* of Chapuis-Comoy, which produces some half a million Chacom pipes a year, states that about 10 percent of those pipes are flawless. They are the top level of the six grades that determine desirability (and price):

First quality: Flawless.

XA: The briar may have two little points (small holes) which require filling.

XF: Three or four points.

II: Called "second quality," these bowls may have four or five small points or one or two larger ones.

III: These "third quality" pipes may have a flaw in the grain up to ½ inch in length.

IV: "Fourth quality" pipes have an obvious fault in the grain. About 10 percent of all bowls are discarded when they don't meet this standard.

Not all pipemakers begin with the precut blank. A smaller producer of highly original pipes, Pierre Morel often carves pipes directly out of uncut root. In that way, he retains the rough, knobby texture of the briar surface as part of the design of the bowls.

In all, some 1600 different pipe styles come out of Saint-Claude, ranging in price from $10 to $150—a full menu for any gourmet of the briar pipe. ★★★

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It starts out as a legitimate on/off road truck with an enclosed cargo area for stowing everything from pups to pup tents, kids to kayaks.

Where you take it from there is pretty much up to you.

The standard engine on Jimmy is a 250 CID in-line six. But there are other choices, all the way up to an available 400 CID 4-bbl. V-8.

Boondock Truckin'.

The standard covering for Jimmy's cargo area is a removable fiberglass-reinforced roof section. But you can order an available soft top that quickly folds out of the way.

You can dress up your 4-wheel-drive Jimmy with a number of available wheels. Likewise, tires. Or with any of a number of available 2-tone paint schemes, complete with hood stripes and a stand-up hood ornament.

And if you want to take a little civilization with you when you leave it, you can order available amenities ranging from air conditioning to a stereo AM/FM radio and tape player.

GMC's 4-wheel-drive Jimmy. However you trick it up, it's a fundamentally tough and reliable vehicle. One built by people who've specialized in trucks for 75 years.

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And then get Truckin'.

THE TRUCK IN' PEOPLE FROM GENERAL MOTORS GMC

GM

THE PM GARAGE

CAPSULE REPORTS ON NEW AUTO PRODUCTS BY THE EDITORS

Smooth socket universal

Most universal joints for socket sets bind and "wrap up" when crimped at hard angles. Here's one, though, that's as smooth as a straight extension.

Sold by Jawco, this U-joint can bend at a 45° angle, so it easily gets into tight places. It makes pulling those hidden sparkplugs an easy job—one which eliminates the worry of broken porcelain.

The Jawco 45° Flexible Extension Tool, as it's called, comes in square ½ and ⅜-inch-drive sizes, which cost $13.95 and $12.95 respectively. Most tool stores carry it, or you can order directly from Jawco Mfg. Co., 39 Mulberry St., Reading, Pa. 19603.—*M.L.*

Convex fender mirror

Some people swear by them and others, like myself, have not yet been convinced. The convex-lens fender mirrors that I've seen on so many cars in Europe just don't seem necessary to me. This one, the Broadsight fender mirror, is a handsome and well-made $11 mirror (plus $2 postage) and it even has a snap-back feature that keeps it in alignment even though it may be bunked in parking lots and car washes. It would be a boon to anyone who has the misfortune of being in a neck brace: It saves head-turning before changing lanes. Aesthetically, it's not something I would like on my front fenders (even though I've seen them on some of the world's best-looking cars). Ameropean Corp. 50 Old Hill Rd., Hamden, Conn. 06514. —*B.H.*

Quick distance figures

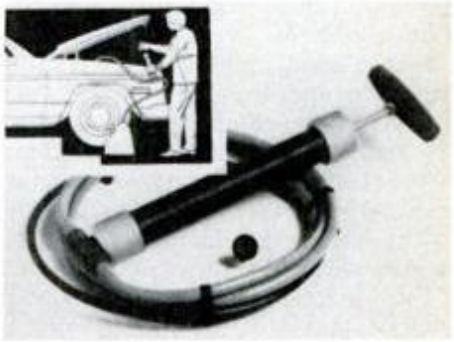
The Mile-O-Graph is as much fun as it is practical. It's a precision instrument that gives you the exact mileage to your destination. You just follow the proposed route on your road map with the pointer and read the appropriate scale. Presto! No pencils, rulers or calculations. And it's easy to compare different routes so you can pick the shorter if time is a factor in your travel plans. The pen-shaped device, $5.50, has a money-back guarantee of satisfaction. Kimberly's, 10504 Dorothy Ave., Dept. 50Z, South Gate, Calif. 90280.—*B.H.*

Motorcycle jack

When you get hooked on motorcycling, you're hooked for good, so you might as well invest in the right tools to be able to do your own maintenance. The first thing you need is some way to lift the front and rear ends of your bike so you can spin the wheels. You can use a clumsy stack of 4x4s or cement blocks, but you get a slick lift with this Hart Cycle Jack.

It's tubular steel with a rubber pad to protect frame and pipes. Street bike model is $24 while enduro and off-road jack is $22. Hart Cycle Jack Co., 2774 South Pierce St., Denver, Colo. 80227.—*B.H.*

Utility pump



This hand pump is one of those tools you wonder how you did without. It's got lots of automotive applications (more and more cars have provision for oil changes right through the dipstick tube) and it has many other uses as well. You can empty boat and yard-equipment tanks, and use it for aquariums and dishwashers, too. The Model 500 is made of PVC with aluminum rod and stainless-steel valving and has 8½ feet of tubing. It's $6.95. Thompson Pump Co., 2682 Myrtle Springs, No. 107, Dallas, Tex. 75200.—*B.H.*

Ice-warning gauge

The fascinating feature of this VDO Outside Temperature Gauge is the built-in red light that activates at 37° F. to provide early warning of icing conditions. The electronic gauge mounts in or under your dash and uses a bumper-mount sending unit to pick up ambient temperature. The $49.95 kit is one of many instruments from VDO ('77 catalog is $1). VDO Instruments, 116 Victor, Detroit, Mich., 48203.—*B.H.*

Материал предоставлен архивом журнала

BY ROBERT LUND

DETROIT LISTENING POST

Ford's mystery mini

Ford has started the paperwork for a small car it is expected to put in production in 1980 or '81. This is a tough one to figure and it could be any of several different cars:

- It could be a brand-new job.
- It could be a made-in-America Fiesta. Fiesta, the small car coming from Europe, won't be here until summer. The company has said if the market for minis really roars in the next few years, it will consider building Fiesta in this country. So the one in the incubator could be an American Fiesta.
- Ford is keeping an eye on a smaller-than-Chevette car being developed by General Motors and the new job could be Ford's answer to a smaller mini from GM. More details later.

Sizing up GM's mid-sizers

Mini, subcompact, compact, intermediate, mid-size, family size, full size, big car (by GM's dimensions), big car (as defined by Ford and Chrysler), luxury car, specialty car. If you find all those categories confusing and have trouble sorting out which makes fit under which heading, welcome to the club. Me too. But don't tell because I'm supposed to know the players without a scorecard.

GM is now reworking its intermediates for 1978-79 in two distinct lines—one batch coming in '78, another in '79. More confusion. How do you sort out the '78 intermediates from the '79 intermediates?

My method, for what it's worth: The '78s are the big intermediates. The "bigs" are Chevrolet Monte Carlo and Chevelle, Buick Century, Oldsmobile Cutlass and Pontiac Grand Prix and LeMans. These cars are currently built on two different wheelbases—116 inches for four-doors, 112 inches for two-doors. Starting next year, all "bigs" will have the same wheelbase, 108.1 inches. The "bigs" will be followed a year later, in '79, by the small intermediates. The "smalls" are Chev Nova, Buick Skylark, Olds Omega and Pontiac Ventura. These cars will have a 103.5-inch wheelbase.

Another way to sort them out: The "bigs" will have rear-wheel drive; the "smalls," front drive.

Sorry, no refunds if you are more confused now than you were before.

New wagon from Ford

Ford will downsize its intermediates in two stages over two model years, same as GM. The first stage will come this fall with a new line of wagons. They will be on a wheelbase of 105 inches. A year later, in 1978—the '79 model year—the four-door cars will go to the 105-inch wheelbase and the two-doors will be pulled down to a tight 100 inches.

Wanted: a no-tinker carb

If you want to make your fortune in the car biz, design a carburetor that does not require an idle adjustment. The auto companies have spent billions to reduce pollution from cars, only to see much of their effort go down the drain because people fiddle with the carb.

Engineers are now looking at different versions of a tinkerproof carburetor. They would like to come up with a life-of-the-car unit that could be sealed in at the factory. But that's not very practical. Someone would find a way of violating the seal and there's no such thing as a working part that could be guaranteed to function faultlessly for the life of the car.

A more practical approach would be a carburetor that automatically adjusts itself, so there's no need for an idle screw to tempt tinkerers. That's assuming cars continue to have carburetors.

Plastic doors coming soon

Many worthwhile improvements in automobiles do not originate with the car companies. They come from suppliers. No charge to the car manufacturer for the idea. The payoff for the supplier comes when the carmaker places an order with the supplier to build the item or parts of it. When the improvement is put on a car, the auto company takes the bow and there's seldom any mention of the supplier. Those are the rules of the game and suppliers don't get miffed because they are left out of the credits.

But if a supplier wants to establish his claim before the car company steals the thunder, there's a way of doing it. Some time before the idea shows up on a production car, the supplier calls a press conference and explains his brainchild. The press conference is held anywhere from a few weeks to a year ahead of the time the device appears.

All of which is background to tell you that Owens-Corning Fiberglas held a recent press conference in Detroit to announce it has developed an all-plastic car door and GM, Ford and Chrysler are trying it out.

More info on Olds diesel

The auto companies know a lot more about you than you might give them credit for. Like whether you're married or single, your age (within a year or two), approximate income, education, how many miles you drive a year, your line of work and a hundred other things.

The companies get the information by doing very thorough surveys of car buyers. The information is fed into a computer to produce what Detroit calls "The Buyer Profile." This is secret stuff and one company never gives another a flash of what it has in the folder.

One thing GM did before deciding to put a diesel engine in an Oldsmobile was to do a what-makes-'em-tick of Olds owners. Some of the things GM wanted to find out:

Could the typical Olds customer afford to pay a premium price for a diesel engine? Yes. Is he concerned about gas mileage? Not particularly, but if mileage can be improved he'd welcome it. Does he have a hang-up about being the first guy away from the light or passing other cars on the freeway? (The question has been paraphrased; GM doesn't ask questions that bluntly.) Answer: Speed and the quick getaway aren't a big deal with Olds owners.

You have to do some reading between the lines, but there are tip-offs in the questions on what to expect of the GM diesel. It will carry a premium price tag, give superior gas mileage but not have the usual punch. ★★★

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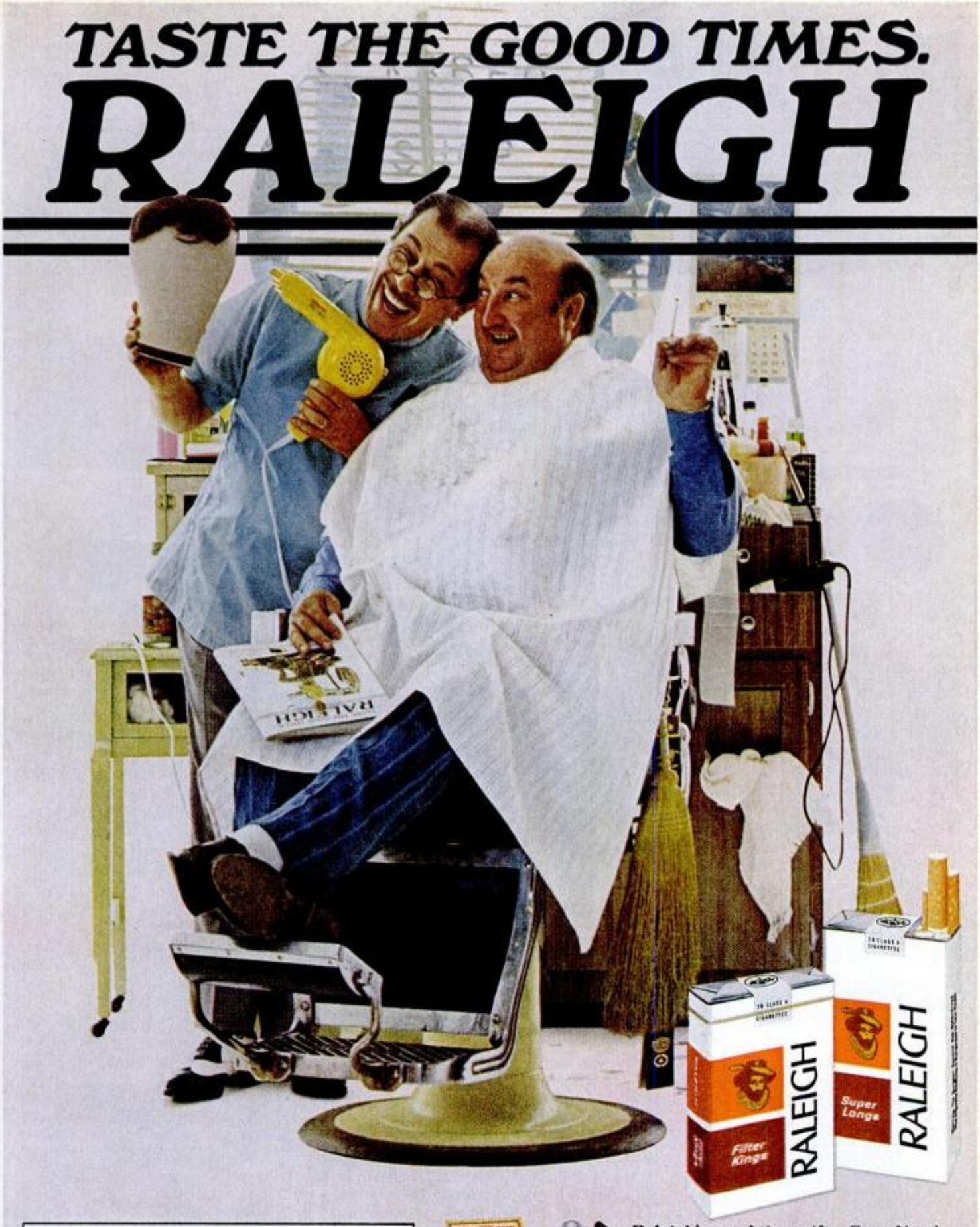

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Filter Kings, 16 mg. "tar," 1.1 mg. nicotine; Longs, 17 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report Apr. '76

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PM WORKBENCH
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Air-impact drain cleaning

Stacked up against the cost of a drain cleaning service or a plumber, this tool could be a good investment. The Kyna Colt is charged with a CO_2 cartridge. Use the variety of rubber discs to fit between the nozzle and your backed-up drain. Push the handle down and the one-shot blast of gas sets off a shock wave in the standing water that travels along the pipe to the obstruction.

Basic Services, 509 West 38 St., New York, N.Y. 10018, guarantees 95 percent of all blockages will clear. The $50 tool is also sold through Sears.

Moderate-priced table saw

Rockwell bills its new model as a Homecraft Table Saw. The main table is pretty solid—which is true of the tool's general construction (though the rip-fence adjustments are somewhat under-built). The price ($254.99) and the blade capacity (10 in.) make it a solid buy for medium-duty use.

One drawback: The splitter (that attaches to an extension of the housing) and the blade guard don't line up with the blade. I tried to adjust our sample with no success, and have since seen two saws (one set up by Rockwell employees) that were out of alignment. The people I talked to at the company didn't seem too bothered by this. The message I got was that design changes weren't called for since most people remove the guards anyway.

In fact, there's so much play in the guard that a moderate amount of pressure is enough to drive it into the blade.

A brushless finish

It's a weird feeling to apply a clear, semigloss finish with a rag instead of a brush. UGL's Wipe-On Zar finish eliminates brush cleaning and that inevitable loose brush hair that gets stuck to the surface. A flat-

napped rag works well and makes it quick and easy to cover turned pieces like chair rungs. The objects I coated did dry free of "wipe" marks.

The company claims coverage of up to 400 sq. ft. for a pint, which is hard to judge but seems a bit high from the amount I used in sealing pine shelves.

A foamy house

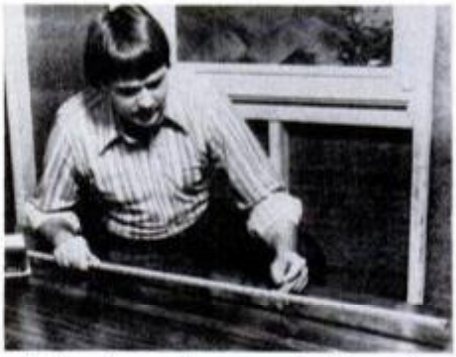
Here's a great idea whose time came too soon. Fomofill is like a can of shaving cream except it's filled with a urethane foam solution. The thin nozzle is ideal for insulating hard-

to-reach places where the foam dries to fill voids in wood, masonry or metal (even in car trunks).

The cans I used worked great the first time and then clogged. The instructions say to clean the nozzle after use with a solvent (what a mess) or pull the dried foam out later with a paper clip (didn't work for me). With a self-cleaning tip, this stuff would be terrific. The 18-oz. cans will sell for $6.95.

Easier to measure

You get real value from a tool that does more than its job. You can measure distance on any ruler, but the new Stanley 8-ft. steel tape (called "The Extender") is rigid enough to support itself up to 7 ft. The "helping hand" at the other end



of the tape is a real plus when you've got both hands full. Suggested list price is $2.99.—*M.M.*

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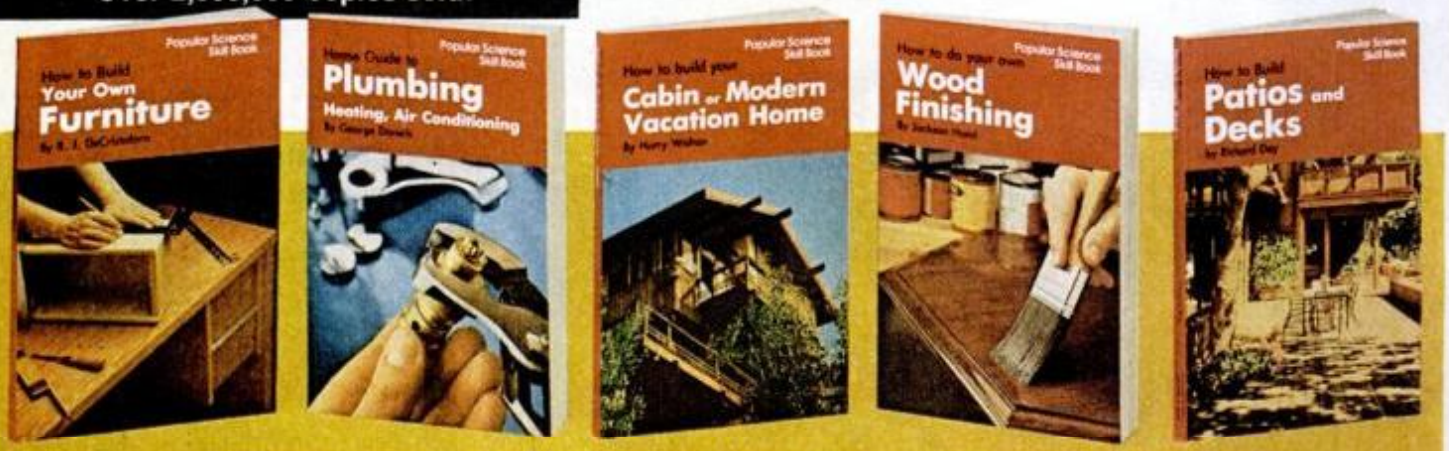

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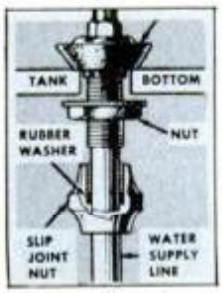

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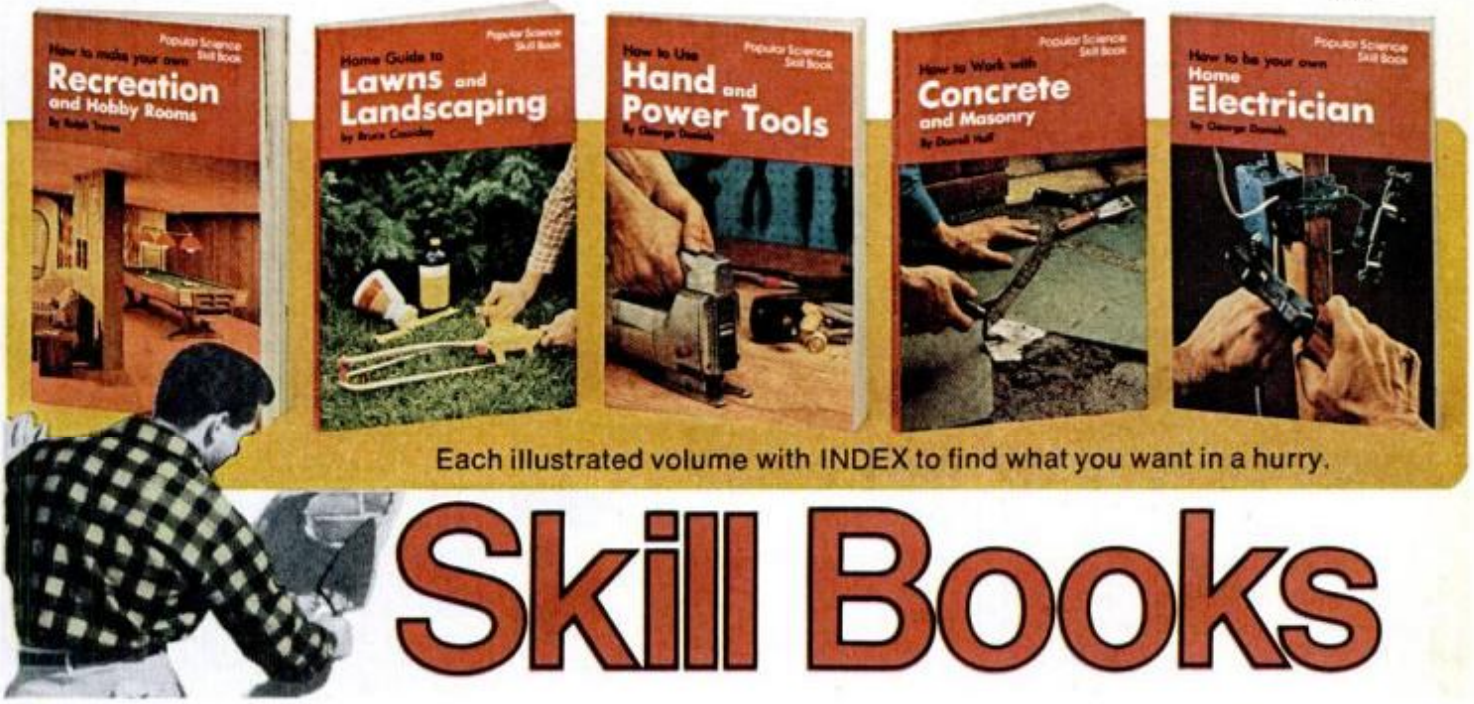

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ALL OUTDOORS

Recreation award

The U.S. Department of the Interior's highest outdoor recreation honor recently went to The Stanley Works, famous New Britain, Conn., tool and hardware maker. The Outdoor Recreation Achievement Award was given in recognition of the donation by Stanley of 160 acres of scenic and environmentally important land to the Nature Conservancy and the State of Connecticut.

Land parcels include area along the Housatonic River which will expand the grounds of the Sloane Museum of early American tools in Kent, a section of the Appalachian Trail, and an enlargement of the Kent Falls State Park.

Take a peak

A new division of Coleman camping equipment has been created to develop innovative lightweight gear. Called Peak 1, the group will specialize in the production of lightweight backpacking gear and shortly will be marketing packs, day sacks, tents, sleeping bags, and a small backpack stove.

The designs are planned for hikers rather than family campers, and the most unusual items we have inspected so far are the stove and the pack frame. The stove checks in a little heavier than some pack models available, but more than makes up the difference in heat output for fuel carried. The pack frame, of polypropylene, has been engineered with a flexibility that appears to offer the advantages of both rigid frames and conforming movement of internally framed packs, with adjustments to fit exact body shape.

BB bulletins

Firing a Crosman single-shot bolt-action air rifle, Tom Thompson of the University of Illinois recently won top honors in the National Explorer Scout competition at Wichita, Kans. Over 150,000 youngsters took part in shoot-offs.

The best of 700,000 boys and girls from 3500 Jaycees chapters will have a chance to compete in the Olympic-style finals of the 12th annual Daisy/Jaycees International BB Gun Championships this year. The matches will be held at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D., July 1-3.

Offshore alphabet

In the wet world of outboard racing, OZ is not the land of the Wizard and the Tin Man, and the Mod 50 isn't an oversize rock band. But to the uninitiated, boat racing is often a scramble of abbreviations and acronyms, so we asked Ron Pedderson, Johnson Outboards resident savant, for an up-to-date translation.

Long-shot archery record with handheld bow was recently set at 1077 yards at Bonneville Salt Flats by Bruce Odle with Browning recurve bow and special short arrow. Hunting-arrow records neared 500.

The type of event, he points out, where Johnson, Evinrude and Mercury parade their wares, is called Outboard Performance Craft (O.P.C.) racing. The worldwide sanctioning group for O.P.C. racing (in fact, for all forms of powerboat racing) is the Union of International Motorboating (U.I.M.), headquartered in Belgium. The American Power Boat Assn. (A.P.B.A.), in Detroit represents U.I.M. in the United States.

There are three U.I.M./A.P.B.A. Outboard Performance Craft classes in which the motor builders enter their factory-backed finest. All use the tunnel-hull type of race boat. Class OZ (which the A.P.B.A. calls Mod U) is the unlimited class—the fastest, most powerful class of outboard race boats in the world. It's the "run what you brung" division where just about anything in the way of outboard motors and fuel goes. All three companies are currently competing with their hottest V6s here: Johnson's RS (for Racing Special); Evinrude's CC; and Mercury's strongest Black Max.

Next step down is Class ON (Mod 120) with allowable engine displacement of no more than 2000 cubic centimeters. This, too, is a province of the V6s. Johnson and Evinrude run their two-liter competition V6s. Mercury counters with its T-3 and 1750XS.

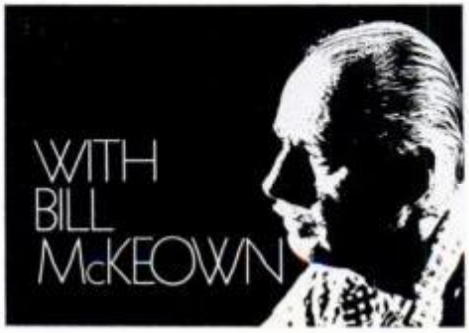
The third "factory" outboard class, and one that has become newly popular in the past year, is OE (Mod 50). The motors here are limited to 850 cc or less. All three factory entries in this class are highly modified racing versions of production three-cylinder models. Johnson runs its Stinger RS here, Evinrude its CC. Mercury competes with its 650X.

A fourth class in this group, and one the factories usually leave to the "amateurs," is OI (Mod 90) with a 1500-cc maximum. Here Johnson and Evinrude fans run older racing versions of their V4 outboards and have also been known to "step up" (run a smaller motor in a higher class) with their OE rigs. The 1000 BP is Merc's top OI competitor.

Still confused? Well EP, GP, JP, and FS are other classes that enjoy popularity. Or how about SD, SE, SG and SJ, or SST, UJ and SV? There's room for any driver who likes to win—just join the A.P.-B.A. and find out for yourself.

Sport style

Who says we don't set styles outdoors? Take a look at the popular down-filled jackets and hiking-boot shoe styles. Recent convert, a designer of expensive luggage, offers a backpack with his initials printed all over it for $275. ★★★



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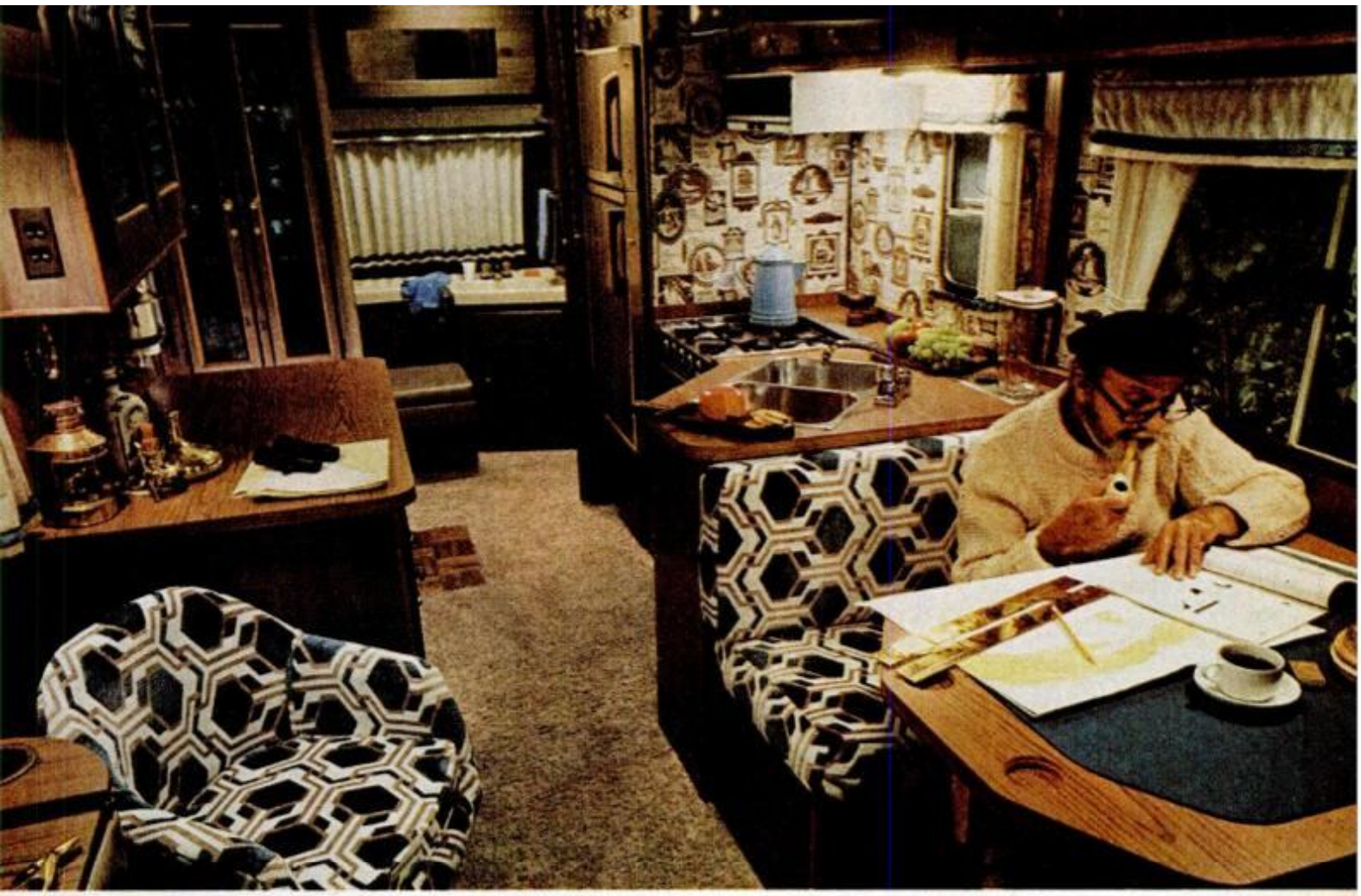

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The Queen Mary doesn't come with an owner protection plan like that. And it can't take you to a mountain stream high in The Rockies. So you'd probably be better off buying a Seafarer.

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Kings, 17 mg. "tar," 1.3 mg. nicotine; Longs, 17 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report Apr. '76

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CAR CLINIC

BY MORT SCHULTZ

Legal beagle

I have a 1976 AMC Sportabout wagon that is not *equipped with catalytic converter. I want to use regular leaded gasoline rather than unleaded, because it's about 5 cents a gallon cheaper. My dealer says that an intricate recalibration of the engine is needed. Say it isn't so.—Bruce H. Phillips, Houston.*

It isn't so, Bruce, but I doubt that you'll find a service station which will sell you leaded gasoline. Service station operators generally believe it is against federal law to fill cars with leaded fuel if they have restricted filler necks.

However, the law says that it is in violation to fill with leaded fuel only those cars equipped with catalytic converter. If a service station operator is "caught" putting leaded fuel in your car he would *not* be subject to a $10,000 fine as he would if he were caught filling a car having catalytic converter with leaded fuel.

You can, then, take a funnel or some other kind of adapter with you to your service station and fill the tank of your Sportabout with leaded gasoline if the attendant lets you.

The warning decal and restricted filler neck is on your car because the emissions certification for your engine is based on the long maintenance intervals which have resulted from using unleaded fuel. For example, you need not replace sparkplugs for 30,000 miles nor is EGR maintenance called for until 30,000 miles. Once the engine is certified under these conditions, the company contends that it would be against the law for it to set the car up to permit the use of leaded fuel.

To sum up as far as you are concerned, Bruce, here are the facts:

- You can use leaded fuel in your car, and a service station operator who agrees to sell you leaded fuel would not be violating the law.
- To conveniently fill your car with leaded fuel would require that you replace the entire fuel tank to eliminate the restriction in the filter neck. If you don't want to do this, you would have to use a funnel or some other adapter to get the fuel pumped into your car.
- Once you switch to leaded fuel, you lose the benefit of long maintenance intervals that unleaded fuel provides. You may have to replace sparkplugs every 15,000 miles or do an EGR service every 5000 miles.

Rabbit with a 'harey' problem

What must be done to cure a hesitation-during-acceleration problem with a 1975 VW Rabbit? The engine has had a complete tune-up, and a new catalytic converter has been installed. My dealer doesn't seem to know where to look for help.—Maurice Kelhoffer, Livingston, N.J.

He just needs a little guidance—right to his service bulletin file. There, he should dig out bulletin P22C, which gives the procedures necessary for ridding Rabbits of this "harey" problem. The remedy is intricate, involving complete carburetor disassembly, new settings and drilling out the choke housing.

Taillight tale

Hey, Mort, that item in the August Car Clinic, "Fussin' over fusin'," really hit home. Let me tell you my experience with the same problem. I'm a GM service manager here in Pocahontas, Iowa. The owner of a 1974 Vega came to us with a taillight outage problem. Finding no obvious reason, I replaced the fuse and sent the car on its way.

Three days later I get a phone call from the party. Same problem. I must admit I was baffled, especially after making another thorough check. Why does the taillight fuse blow when nothing else is activated? I had to find out, so I drove the car. Having the parking lights on had no effect. Neither did driving with the headlights on. Then it happened. I parked the car and set the parking brake. *Bingo went the fuse.*

I lifted the boot around the brake, and there lay my problem—bare wires. The harness feeding the taillights passes through this spot. I taped up the wires and haven't seen that Vega since.—Mike Doffert

Ah, Mike, you relate a good and valuable tale. Thanks.

Vocal Volare

The front disc brakes of my 1976 Volare Premier squeal every time they are applied. The car has been in and out of the Plymouth shop five times. They try, but they can't cure the problem. Brake silencer pads work temporarily. Now Chrysler's top man in Memphis informs

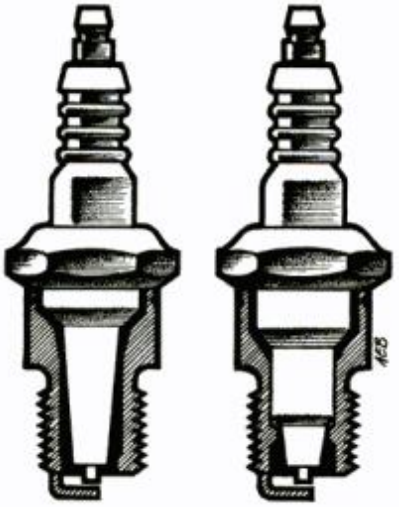
(Please turn to page 56)

PM CAR CARE **tip**

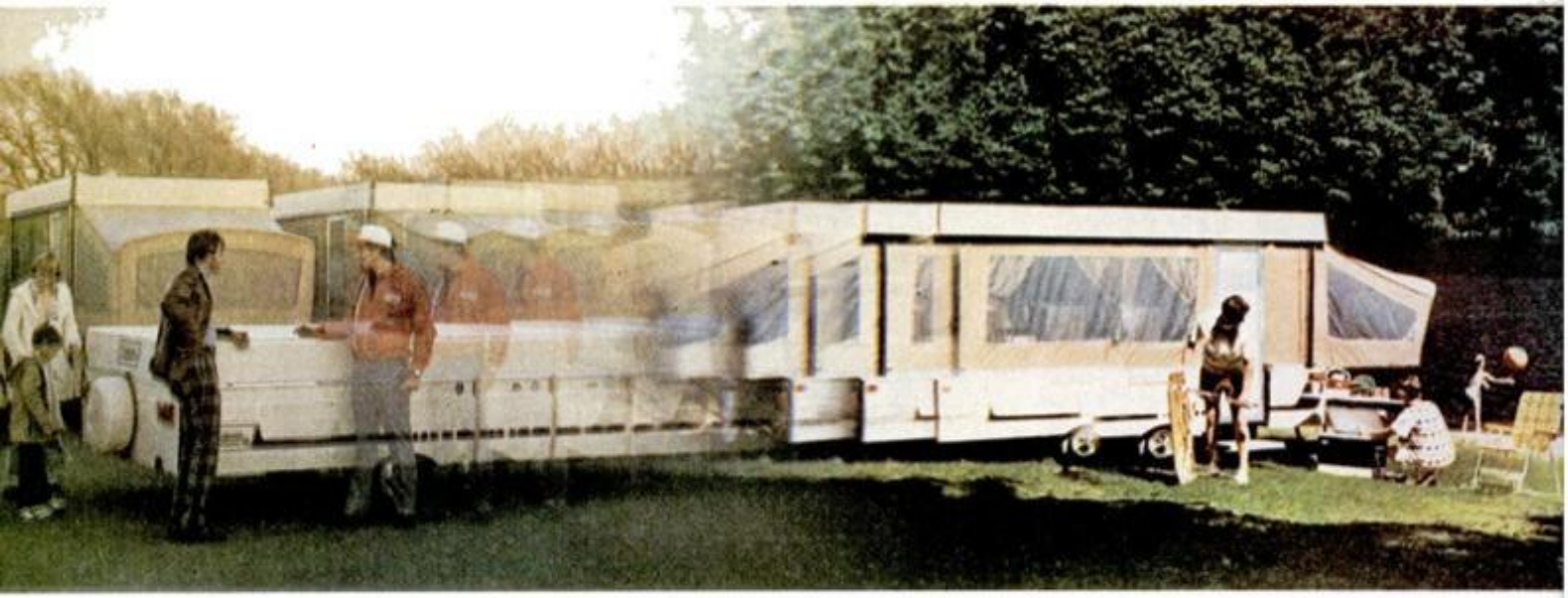
Plugging along

Automotive terms can get confusing. "Hot" and "cold" are examples when they are applied to sparkplugs. A "hot" sparkplug is one that transfers heat slowly, which allows the plug to operate at a higher temperature. It has a *low* heat range because its larger insulator base area absorbs much heat (illustration). Conversely, a "cold" sparkplug, because of its smaller insulator base area that can absorb little heat (illustration), has a faster rate of heat transfer and is able to operate at a cooler temperature. A "cold" plug has a *high* heat range.

You can get several plugs for your engine ranging from "coldest" to "hottest." The one you select depends mainly on driving conditions. Plugs must be hot enough to stay clean and cold enough to prevent premature ignition (preignition), which could cause sparkplug and engine damage.



HOT PLUG COLD PLUG



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CAR CLINIC

(Continued from page 55)

me that all disc brakes squeal. Please help. The brakes are louder than the radio.—Randy L. Carswell, Hixson, Tenn.

All disc brakes don't squeal. Plymouth Volare and Dodge Aspen disc brakes do squeal. The reason is hard and, consequently, long-lasting brake linings.

There are two things you can do. You can spray these linings with brake-lining silencing compound. Kent Industries makes a known-to-work product. However, this solution is temporary.

For a permanent cure, switch to riveted brake linings, which are softer. However, lining for lining, the soft ones give less life than the bonded linings now in your car.

Oh gee, fellas

My mechanic holds you in high esteem, so please don't let us down. We can't figure out what's wrong with my 1974 Ford Pinto which has the 2300-cc engine and four-speed manual transmission. After driving on the highway about 50 miles, the engine begins missing. It gets so violent at times that I must take the transmission out of gear and race the engine until the missing ceases. When the engine starts this nonsense, I can stop and the engine will idle flawlessly.

We've done tune-ups and cleaned the carburetor. After a tune-up, the engine acts fine for two trips between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Then, I'm back where I started from. Can you help?—George A. Cheek, Tulsa, Okla.

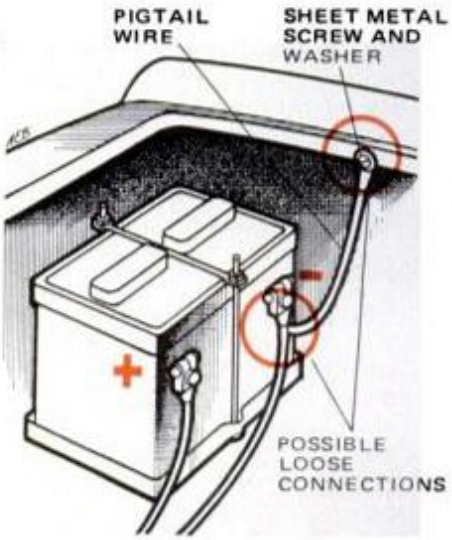
Oil-fouling of sparkplugs, George—I won't bet my life on it, but I will wager a centavo or two. I say fouled plugs because of two things you said. First, that racing the en-

(Please turn to page 59)

PM CAR CARE tip

Here piggy, piggy

Many of today's cars employ a "pigtail" wire which serves as the battery ground between negative post of the battery and the body sheet metal. The ground path for electrical items, such as headlights, horn, and heater blower motor, is from the battery negative post to the body sheet metal through the pigtail. It's not uncommon for a poor ground to exist because of a loose or dirty connection at the spots shown in the illustration. The result may be dimmed headlights and on-again, off-again accessory performance. You can check for a bad ground with a voltmeter or ammeter. With engine off, but headlights on, check for voltage or current draw between alternator bracket and fender. A reading other than zero indicates a poor ground. Check that pigtail.



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NIGHT PATROL, SUNDA STRAITS.

Radar sweeps the horizon. Sonar pulses beneath the surface.

On the bridge, lookouts use moonlight to search their sectors—Java to port, Sumatra to starboard, Krakatau dead ahead.

A job in the Navy doesn't always let you knock off at five o'clock. But on a night as beautiful as this, you don't really care.

It's not just a job, it's an adventure.

The Navy has training in over 60 career fields. If you qualify, we can send you to school in anything from aviation to electronics, from advanced optics to heavy equipment operation. You'll travel, make new friends, get thirty days' vacation with pay.

Navy recruiters have the full story. Speak to one of them or call **800-841-8000** toll free. (In Georgia, 800-342-5855.) The Navy. If you're looking for adventure, you've come to the right place.

Capt. H. C. Atwood, Jr., U. S. Navy B135
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PM 2/7

NAVY. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB, IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

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Tires of tomorrow...today!

Bob Wilson is not an average 'Do-It-Yourself' type. He is Chief Engineer on Moon Ship III. But, Bob still tunes his Neptune V20 Sport Coupe in his home computer workshop and he uses YOKOHAMA STEEL-BELTED RADIAL PASSENGER TIRES, exclusively.

In the future when Moon travel becomes routine and when there are Bob Wilsons, we're sure they will have the technical knowledge and engineering expertise to select YOKOHAMA STEEL-BELTED RADIAL TIRES because YOKOHAMAS are rugged radially constructed tires with Tough Steel Cord Belts. Quality tires with strong carcass, heavy bead and shoulder, built by precision computer compounding for longer wear. Strong tires with great road stability, excellent cornering and quick stopping power.

So, in the Future or Today, if you're looking for a tire backed by over 60 years of engineering excellence and manufacturing experience...tires that will give you mile after mile of reliable service...look to the STRONG ONES.

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(Continued from page 56)

gine alleviates the miss. Racing the engine makes plugs operate hotter, which burns off oil. And second, that after a tune-up the problem ceases for a while. What do you install at a tune-up? Right! New sparkplugs.

But why are sparkplugs fouling? You indicate that you're a salesman. Your car probably has a fair amount of mileage, and I'd guess that valve stem seals may be leaking. You can try a hotter set of sparkplugs. Or you can replace the seals.

Trauma in Wautoma

The service department can't correct a fuel injection problem with my 1974 Volkswagen 412 wagon. The engine has to be cranked a lot before it starts. Then it keeps coughing and missing until it warms up. I've had the car back to the VW dealer many times, so I'll consider this car a lemon unless you tell me otherwise.—V. Tetzlaff, Wautoma, Wis.

Otherwise. Maybe the airflow meter or injectors are a bit on the sour side, but not the car. The airflow meter and injectors are parts of the fuel-injection system that have an effect on cold starting. If the problem turns out to be caused by one of these and not some non-fuel condition, you're okay.

The airflow meter and injectors are guaranteed for five years or 50,000 miles.

A last resort

I'm writing to you as a last resort. My husband thinks that even you *won't be able to solve our problem. Please prove him wrong. Our car, a 1972 Pinto, has a tinted windshield. We didn't buy the car new. There's some type of wax ground into the windshield, that defies removal. We have tried—to no avail—gasoline, antifreeze, ammonia, window cleaner, alcohol, vinegar, plastic window cleaner and plain water. Is there anything else you can think of short of breaking the windshield? —Mrs. Harry Hagberg, Centereach, N.Y.*

Try jeweler's rouge or a piece of pumice. Rub it over the spot lightly at first, then with heavier pressure if the easy-handed treatment doesn't work. If jeweler's rouge or pumice doesn't help, forget it.

You can get jeweler's rouge and pumice at most hardware stores, but if you should have any trouble, you can also try a local jeweler for the rouge, and drugstores normally sell pumice.

SERVICE TIPS

■ Be one up on your Chrysler, Dodge or Plymouth dealer with this tip: If your 1977 model with 400 or 440-cu.-in. engine is misfiring or backfiring, tell him to install a new reluctor (part No. 4091277). This part changes rotor alignment 5°, which minimizes the crossfiring that causes poor engine performance. Once the dealer makes the change, he must retime the ignition to the specification provided on the vehicle's emission control information decal.

■ Here's a simple tip that may cure a cold-engine hesitation or stalling problem with some 1976 Fords and Mercurys having a 351-cu.-in. engine: Relocate the accelerator-pump actuating rod to the top hole (No. 4 position) on the throttle-actuated bellcrank. This increases accelerator-pump action, providing greater fuel displacement. ★★★

GOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR CAR?

Just ask Mort about it. Send your question to the Car Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. While letters cannot be answered individually, problems that are of general interest will be published in the column.

Deciding which smoke alarm to buy could be one of your most important decisions. Here's why more families are choosing the Home Sentry® Smoke Alarm from GE than any other.

The Home Sentry Smoke Alarm from GE is an early-warning system that "sniffs" the air for the presence of smoke and sounds an alarm when smoke reaches it. Here are some of the reasons more families depend on the Home Sentry Smoke Alarm than any other smoke alarm.

The battery-operated Home Sentry Smoke Alarm is the *only* smoke alarm with a 3-point checking system to assure you the alarm and the entire system are in working order. It features a 12.6-volt Duracell® battery made especially for smoke alarms by P. R. Mallory & Co. Inc. And because it's battery-operated, the

Home Sentry Smoke Alarm can continue to function even if household power fails.

Of course, there's no way to guarantee against injury or loss of life in a fire; however, the Home Sentry Smoke Alarm from GE is intended to help reduce the risk of tragedy. And every Home Sentry Smoke Alarm is backed by the General Electric name and the quality and reliability it stands for.

The Home Sentry Smoke Alarm is compact and easy to install with common household tools. For more details and a demonstration, see your local GE dealer. Now's the time to buy one—or as many as your home may need. The Home Sentry Smoke Alarm could help you save your home and your family's lives.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Benchtop vise for tricky holds

A pair of pipe clamps and scrap material make this super holder.

by Richard M. Gutter

My benchtop vise was originally made to hold picture-frame molding for routing. It proved ideal for holding the thin strips of molding, since it supports them securely along their entire length at a convenient height. It also serves as a sort of production fixture for turning out a number of identical pieces quickly and easily.

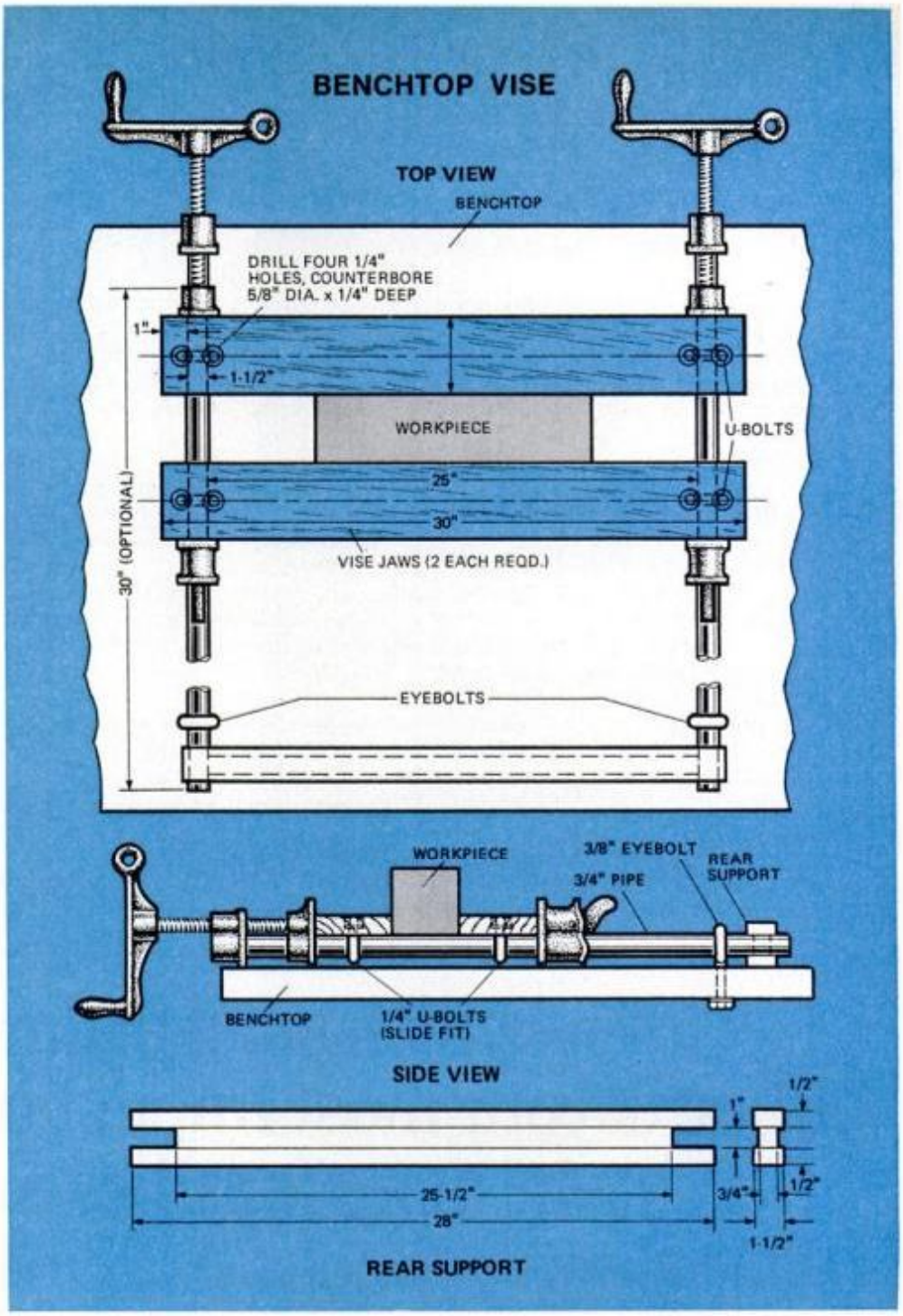
A pair of pipe clamps (perhaps you already have them hanging in a corner of your workshop), several U-bolts, a pair of eyebolts and a couple of boards are all it takes to make the vise. It can do a job equal to many on the market which cost considerably more.

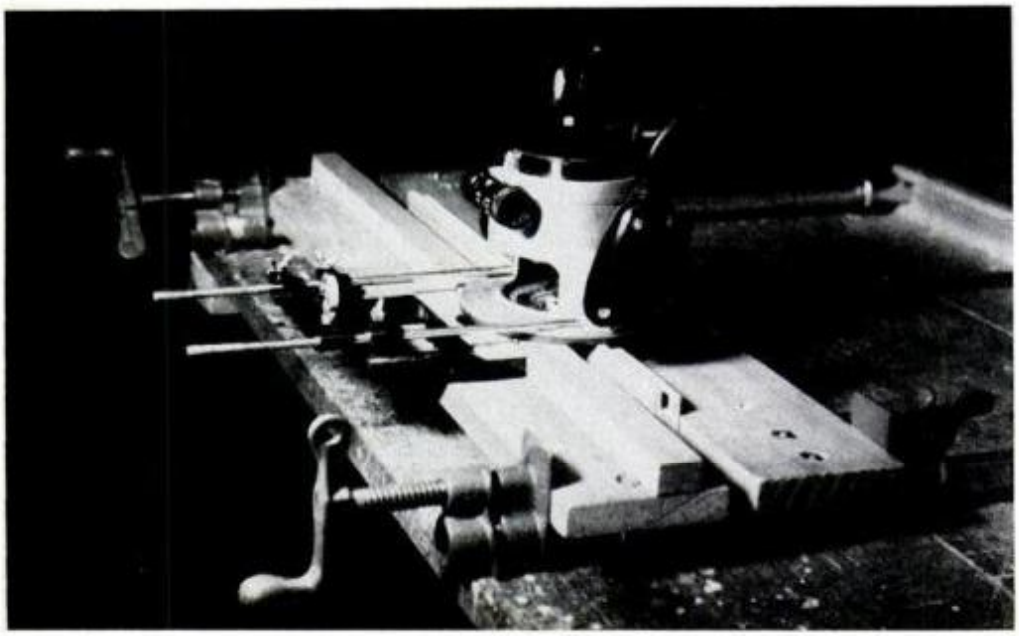
If you buy the pipe clamps and the needed hardware, the vise will cost about $20. If you already have the clamps, about $5 worth of hardware will put you in business.

Assembling the vise

Assembly of the vise (as shown in the drawing) is very straightforward. The jaw boards slide along the pipes which serve as rails. The

(Please turn to page 62)





The continuous clamp system is a low-cost way to turn the top of your bench into a versatile work surface that can hold a variety of shapes and sizes securely. The picture frame molding in the vise at left is ready to be routed. The vise is ideal for holding the molding strips because it supports them securely along their entire length. Two smaller pieces of molding can be gripped in the vise and routed together. It holds material at a convenient height to be routed, sawed, sanded or worked on in other ways.

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Announcing the perfection of a breed... the all-new Chrysler 300

Chrysler proudly announces the first all-Chrysler stern drive ever made: the new "Chrysler 300"!

The "300" is engineered to give you more of what you demand from a truly great stern drive. Ease of handling. Maximum performance. To accomplish this, it took the expertise of Chrysler's finest engineers.

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The "300" introduces a husky "inverted yoke" steering/suspension system that provides amazingly easy steering performance at all speeds.

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Incredibly compact and lightweight, the "300's" patented self-energizing clutch makes all shifting surprisingly smooth with no noisy jolts when it is engaged.

And that's not all. The "300" lower unit was thoroughly tested in one of the world's few computer-controlled water test tunnels. The unit dramatically cuts water turbulence and cavitation at high speeds.

Plus, the "300's" big capacity, advance-design exhaust located above the cavitation plate increases top speed. Gives more than adequate reverse thrust. Makes steering easy on quick take-offs.

The "300" is precision-mated with five proved-dependable Chrysler quality powerplants: the 265, 240 or 195 hp. gas and the 130 or 105 hp. diesel. It accommodates most standard stern drive controls and can replace most competitive stern drives with a simple reshaping of transom cut-out.

The "Chrysler 300" Stern Drive. One more reason why Chrysler keeps on earning its reputation as the pacesetter in modern marine power.

For more information contact: Marine Division, Chrysler Corporation, P.O. Box 1, Marysville, MI 48040.

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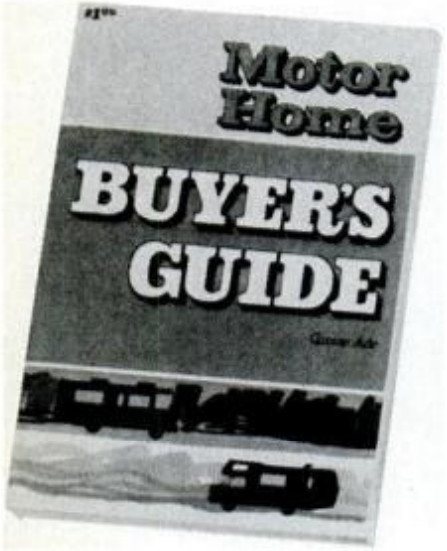

When you buy a motor home today, there are a lot of choices. And a lot of ways to go wrong. The *Motor Home Buyers Guide* can help you get the best motor home for your money. It tells you what to look for, what questions to ask before you buy. More than 100 pages, packed with facts about costs, models, floor plans, features and construction.

This guide is published by Winnebago. It's authoritative. And honest. We honestly believe the more you know about motor homes, the better you'll like ours. Send $1.95 now. It could save you a lot of grief. And money.

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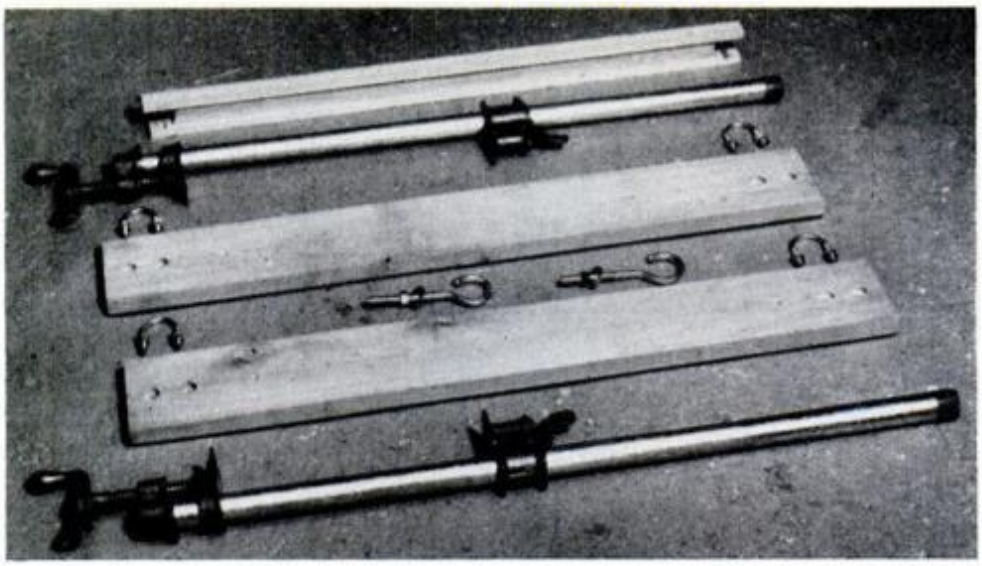
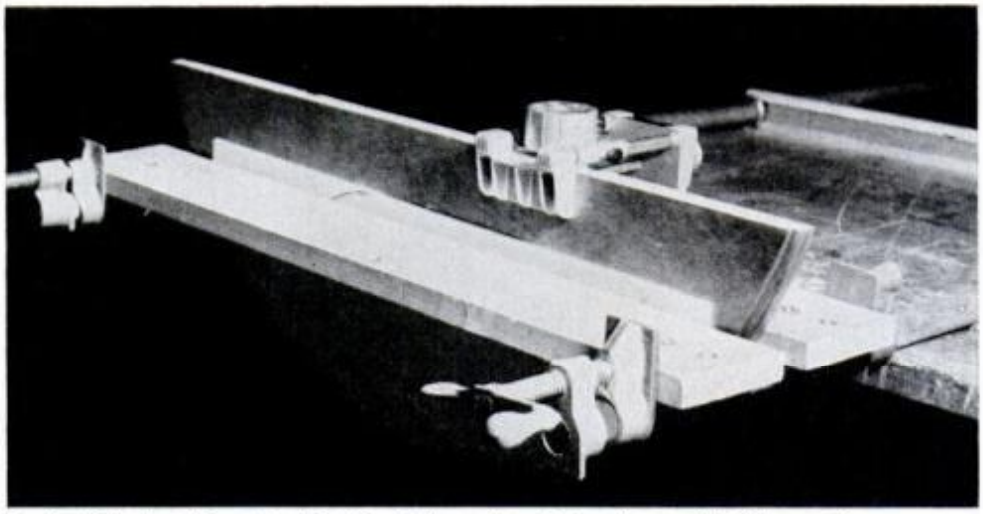
 (Continued from page 60)





Parts of the benchtop vise (top) include a pair of pipe clamps, U-bolts, a pair of eyebolts and some 4-in.-wide hardwood. The eyebolts are opened slightly to clear the pipe. Total cost of the material, including the pipe clamps, is about $20. The assembled vise (above) is set up for doweling a tabletop section. With corner blocks nailed to the boards at 45° angles for protection, the vise holds the table halves together after they are glued. Four-foot-long pipes are used in the vise for this job.

U-bolts (specifically designed for the ¾-in. pipe) are not completely tightened and the pipes are paste-waxed for smooth operation.

I chose 30-in. lengths of threaded pipe for my vise. The jaws are made from 4-in.-wide hardwood that was on hand. The board dimensions and the pipe lengths are not at all critical. The choice of lengths is largely a matter of convenience for your particular work space. Two ⅜-in.-dia. holes must be drilled in the benchtop for eyebolts to mount the device.

Tricky vise holds

I realized the versatility of this fixture for the first time when I needed to repair the split round top of an old table. The top was over 30 in. in diameter and, because of its shape, difficult to hold for doweling and gluing. I used 4-ft.-long pipes in my benchtop vise for this job. It was not only easy with the vise to hold each half of the tabletop for drilling dowel holes, but by nailing pieces of scrap lumber to the jaw boards at 45° angles, the tablestop halves were readily drawn together and securely clamped until the glue dried.

The vise has proved equally useful in other jobs. It holds workpieces of many sizes and irregular shapes, including tapered pieces and rounds. Although pipe lengths of 30 in. are useful for most tasks, it is quite simple to insert longer pipe rails for an unusually large job.

When not in use, the vise can be quickly dismounted by removing the two nuts from the eyebolts that hold it to the benchtop. It can be stored until the next time you need a good vise for a tricky hold.

The two small holes in the benchtop made for the eyebolts that hold the vise in place when it's being used don't detract from the general utility of the bench as a work surface once the vise is removed. ★★★

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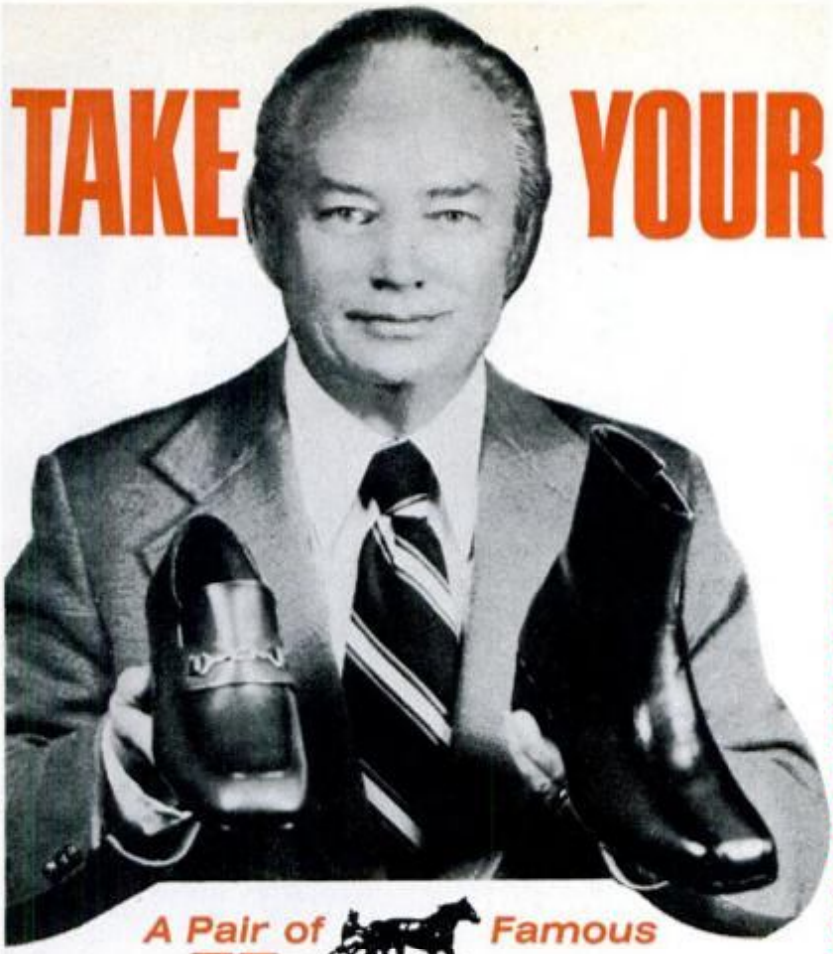
TAKE YOUR PICK...



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Jumping on the Hanover bandwagon is the simplest thing you can imagine—and it doesn't cost you a cent. Just mail the card at the right. It doesn't even need a stamp. I'll send you a complete selling kit including the full color Hanover catalog of more than 200 shoe styles and put you in business for yourself right now.

You'll find the Hanover catalog will let you offer your friends dress shoes and boots, casual shoes, slip-ons, work shoes, fleece lined boots for working outside or hunting. You don't "sell." You hand the catalog to a friend or co-worker, let him see the spectacular buys Hanover offers, and let the high quality of Hanover sell for you. I am not suggesting that you quit your regular job. Not at all. Right now I'm talking about a spare time business that will bring you extra income. But let me also tell you that the Hanover door is open to even more opportunities and more money. I'll show you how you can put yourself into the executive class at an executive's income. And I'll show you plenty of men who have followed this path with Hanover and are making more money than they ever made in their lives.

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President

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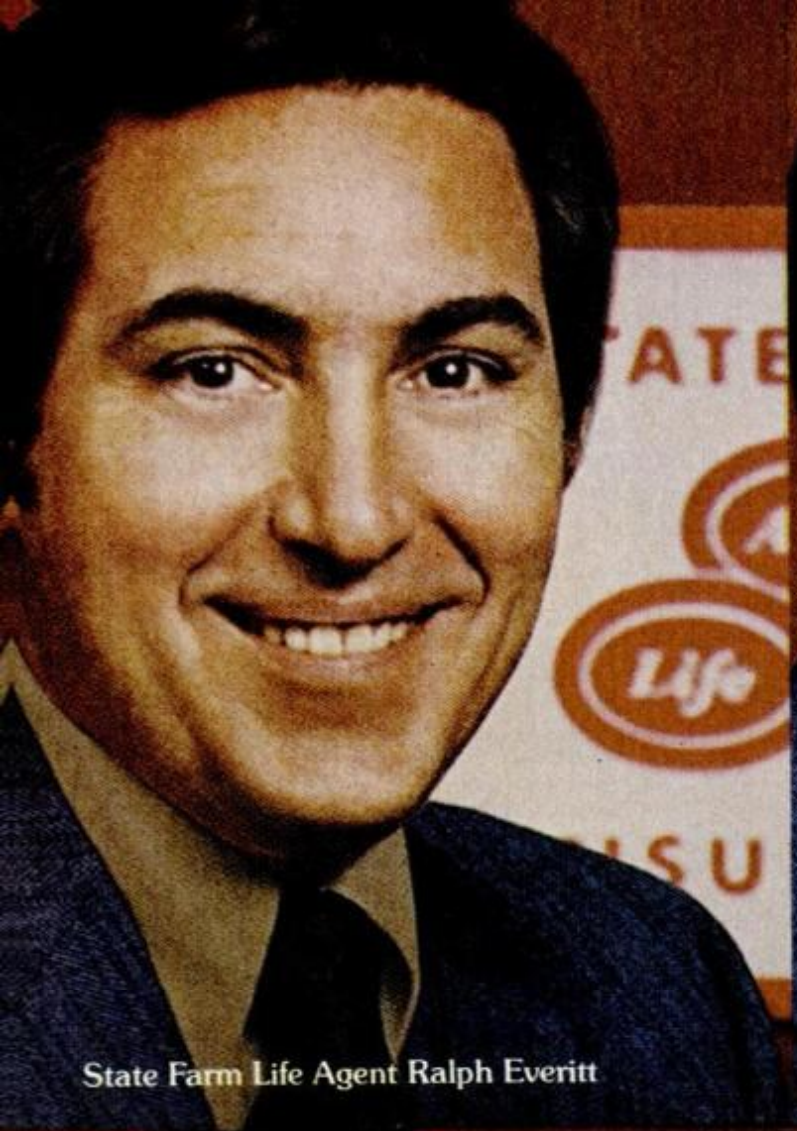
State Farm Life Agent Ralph Everitt

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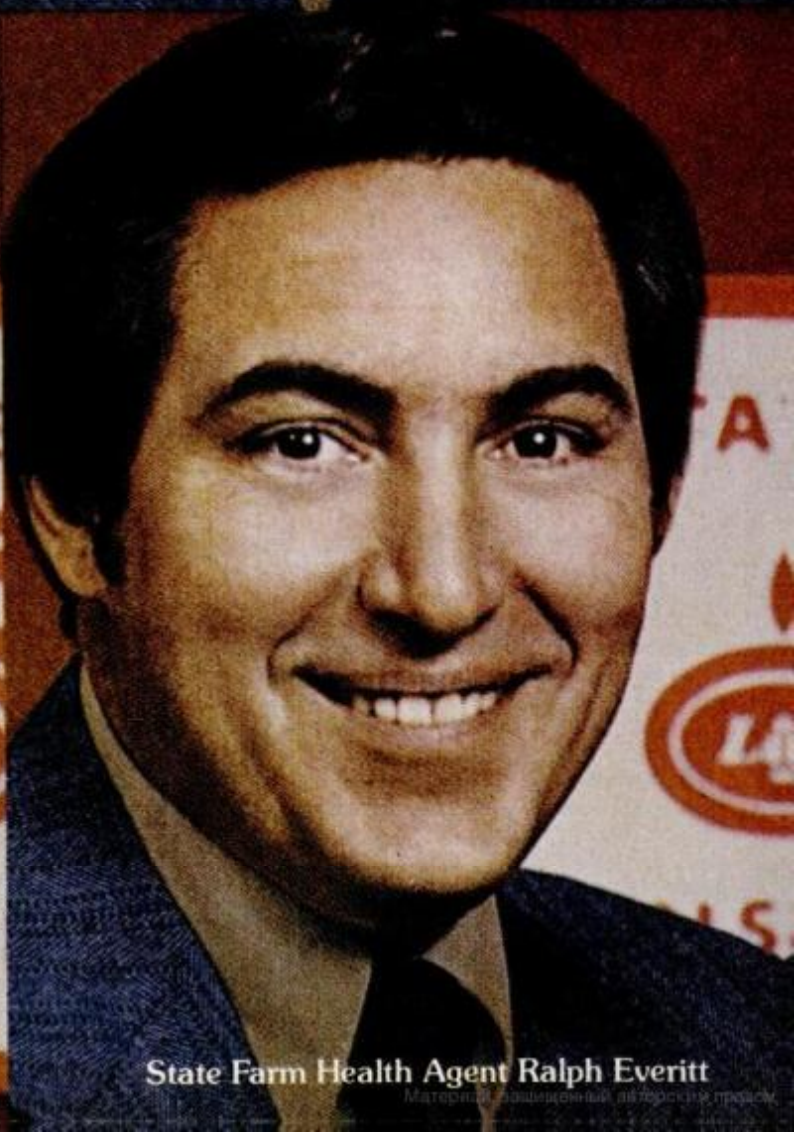
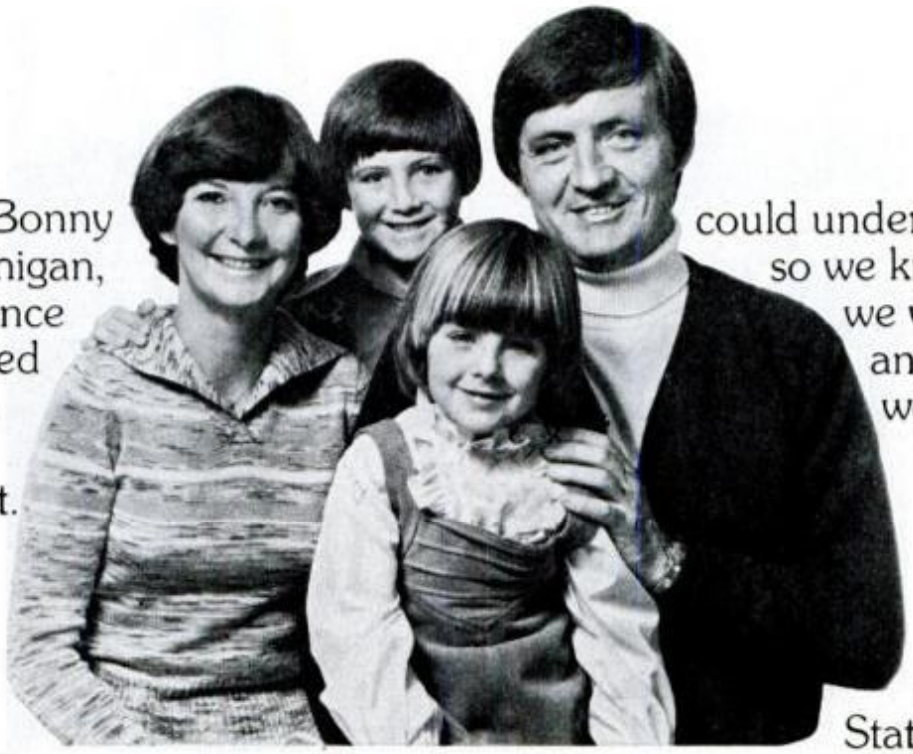

State Farm Health Agent Ralph Everitt

The best man to see about your life insurance may be your car, home, or health agent.



Before Gary and Bonny Lepp of Troy, Michigan, chose a life insurance agent, they shopped around. And then decided they already had the best.

"We've had our home and car insured by State Farm for several years," says Gary, "and Ralph Everitt's always done a fine job as our agent. When it came time to look at a long-range life insurance plan, we compared the recommendations of agents representing some other well-known companies.

"But Ralph developed a program combining whole life with term insurance that we felt best met our financial goals for the future and stayed well within our means."

Bonny feels that Ralph "explained our life insurance in language we could understand, so we knew what we were buying and what it would do for our family.

"We just have a great deal of confidence in him, and State Farm, too."

So now, when the Lepps need help with any kind of family insurance—auto, homeowners, life, or health—they have one agent they can count on.

And only one phone number to remember.

Why not talk to a State Farm agent about a total insurance plan for your family? There's probably one like Ralph Everitt not far from where you are right now. Look him up in the Yellow Pages.

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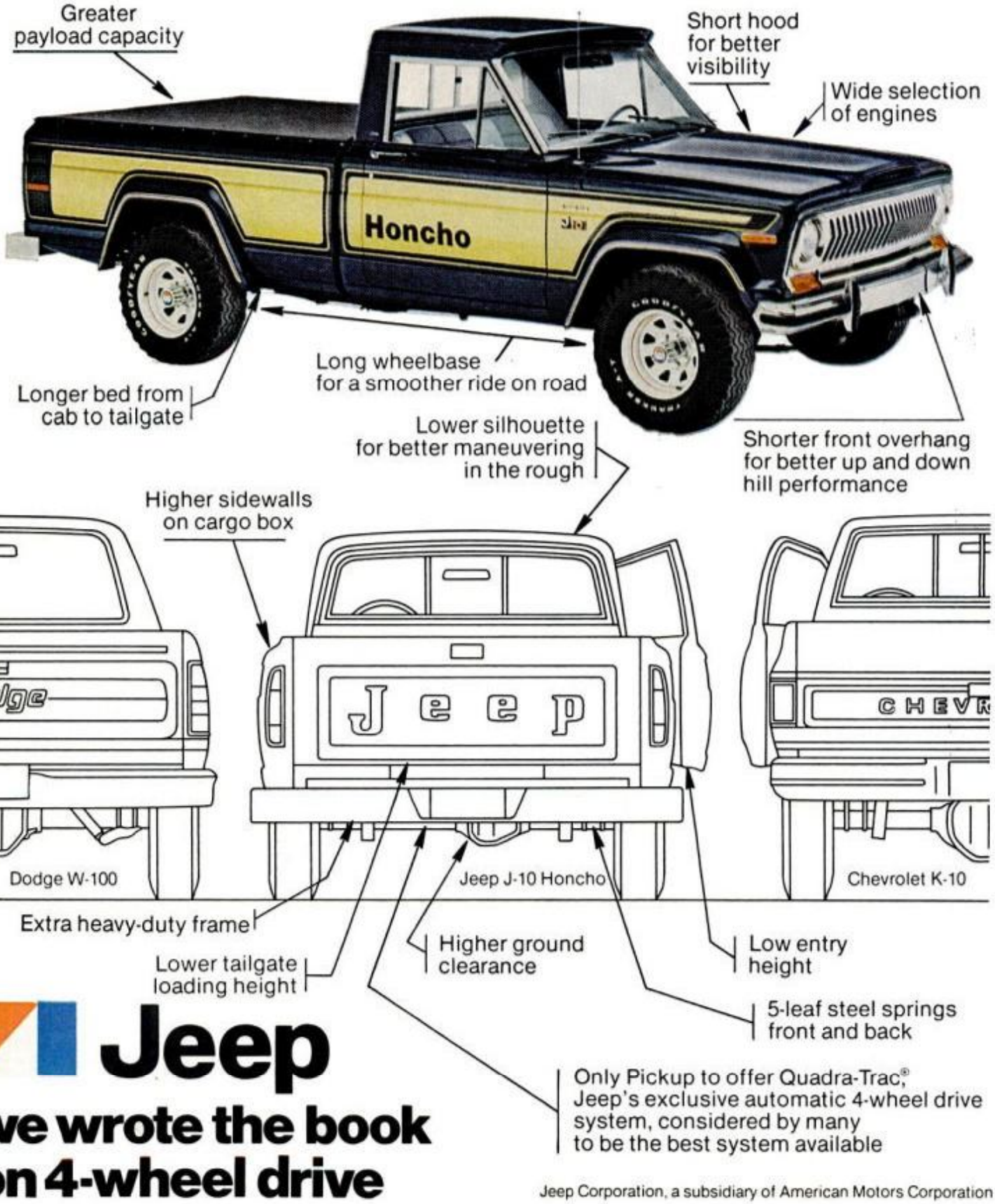
Jeep® Pickup puts down the facts... (and the competition)



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Popular Mechanics

Sailing with Halley's comet— and other space spectaculars for the 1980s

The Jet Propulsion Lab's imaginative package includes a space sail that needs no fuel, a radar mapper to see through the clouds of Venus and rovers to explore Mars.

by John F. Pearson
SCIENCE EDITOR

As any bird watcher would be quick to confirm, purple pigeons don't exist. Not yet. Right now they fly only at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory—in the brains of scientists and engineers, in computers and on drawing boards. Still, they're a remarkable flock of birds.

Planners at JPL use "purple pigeons" as a tag for the unmanned missions they hope to launch in the 1980s. The projects would aim at further exploration of our solar system and would use—with one exception—spacecraft of conventional design. The one exception—the solar sail—is unlike anything ever put into space.

On a recent visit to the laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., I heard administrators, scientists and engineers talk enthusiastically about the sail, describing it as an exciting scien-

Photos and data from space flow into control center (left) at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., as scientists monitor and guide missions within the solar system. Above: Solar sail nears Halley's comet in painting by Ken Hodges.

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Countdown to new space spectaculars

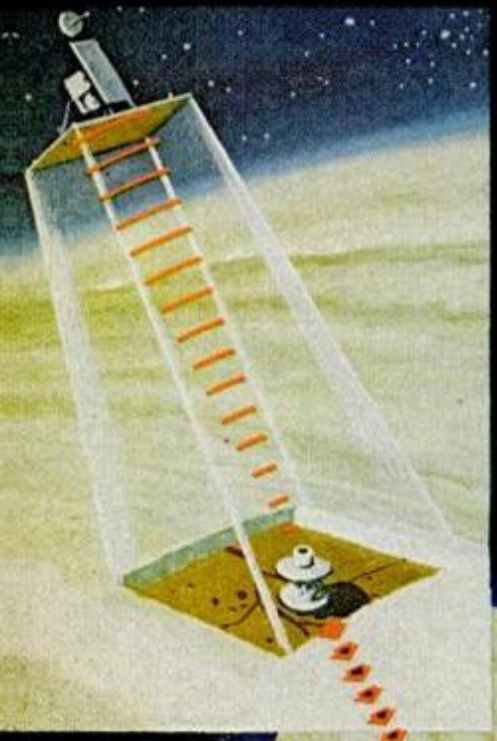
The men who gave us the Viking mission to Mars—scientists and engineers at the Jet Propulsion Lab—are cooking up new unmanned space spectaculars for the '80s. Here's a sampling of their way-out plans.

Beyond 1980s

When manned exploration of Mars becomes feasible, solar sails (right) could be used to land small powerplants, space vehicles and other vital payloads.

1981-1983

Radar-equipped orbiter (below) could penetrate dense clouds that hide mysterious Venus from standard cameras. At a distance of 625 miles, the orbiter could map planet's entire surface. An instrumented landing package could be dropped on the planet to carry out scientific studies.



VENUS

MARS

1984

As a follow-on to Viking mission, small rovers would be landed on Mars to explore canyons, craters and other areas of geologic interest. The Vikings on wheels could cover about three miles a day, returning photos and scientific data via a mother orbiter.

PM art: Ed Valigursky

JUPITER

GANYMEDE

SATURN

TITAN

1980s

The frozen surface of Ganymede—one of Jupiter's large moons—is cracked by impact of small lander. Scientists say that it could be dropped from orbiting spacecraft sent to Jupiter and on a cruise of that distant planet's four major moons.

1980s

Spectacular Saturn has an Earthlike moon—Titan—with a heavy atmosphere. NASA and JPL scientists propose sending a Viking-type vehicle to search for possible life forms. Small lander would descend on Titan while mothercraft, in orbit around Saturn, would study planet.

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tific concept as well as an idea that could stir the public interest.

The public's involvement is an important consideration with the people at JPL. This reflects the view of the lab's new director, Dr. Bruce Murray, who last spring created a task force to review old and new mission concepts and to debate their scientific value, feasibility and "pizazz." The idea was to weed out missions with little public appeal—"gray mice"—and focus on those that gave promise of drama and excitement—"purple pigeons."

Manned space ventures have built-in drama. Few TV viewers who watched Neil Armstrong take his first step on the moon will forget that exciting moment. There was great achievement in that step, but danger, too. In the back of the viewer's mind was the thought, "What if something goes wrong?" A mere machine on the moon would have been another story.

Machines are best bet

But for the foreseeable future, the only way we can explore the planets is with unmanned machines. As yet, we don't have the technical capability to send men to distant worlds. Besides, manned missions are far more expensive to mount than unmanned ones.

So the purple pigeons—or some versions of them—will be the way we'll explore the planets in the decades ahead. These missions will build on the technology and lessons learned from Viking and earlier projects. Viking was a much more difficult and sophisticated venture than Apollo. Landing men on the moon—in our own back yard—was easy compared to the task of sending a vehicle 460 million miles for a soft landing on Mars. The excellent photos of the Martian landscape produced by the Viking landers offer solid proof that machines can do a job in space.

When it comes to designing, programming and guiding unmanned space systems, no other group anywhere in the world can match the achievements of the people at JPL, a NASA-supported facility. JPL's experience goes back to the Pioneer, Ranger, Surveyor and Lunar Orbiter missions. In 1964, Ranger 7 sent back 4308 photos to give us our first close look at the moon.

Future space exploits will surely include at least several of the purple pigeons. The most unusual project of the whole flock has to be the solar sail. It was explained to me by Norman R. Haynes, a friendly, bouncy young man who clearly enjoys his work as manager of advanced programs development.

Photons, he told me, are what make the sail work. Scientists define photons as massless particles that carry energy and have momentum. When reflected, they change momentum and a force is exerted against the reflecting surface—like a wind against a sail. As photons stream out from the sun—and they are not to be confused with the solar wind, a flow of ionized hydrogen and helium—they have a measurable effect on objects they hit.

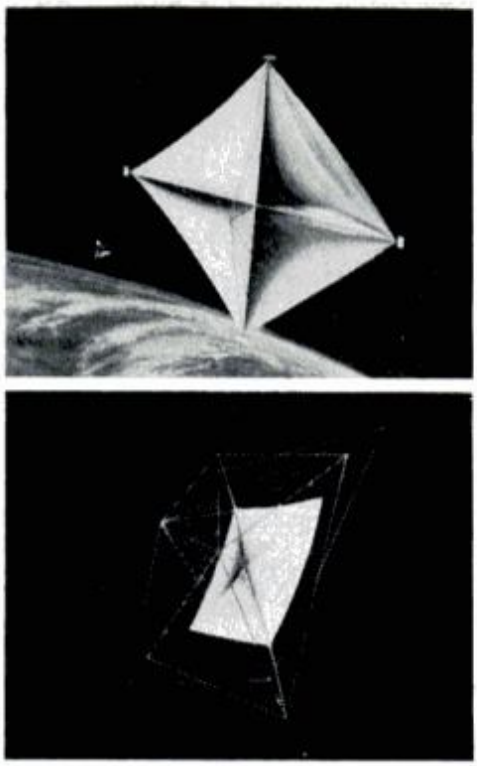
"When you calculate the trajectories to get from the Earth to Mars," Haynes explained, "you have to allow for the amount by which the craft is going to be pushed off course by photons—sunlight pressure. It will amount to from 10,000 to 20,000 kilometers. Keep in mind that the typical spacecraft is small and dense. If you have a craft that's very large and very light, it gets pushed around that much more."

A big plastic kite

JPL scientists envisage a squarish sail measuring about half a mile on a side. It would be made of thin plastic film coated with aluminum to create a highly reflective surface. The sail would be supported by lightweight metal spars and look like a giant kite. At its center where the long spars are joined, a conventional spacecraft (such as a Mariner or Pioneer) would be attached. It would contain computers, communications gear and sensors.

Initially at least, the sail would be launched from a Space Shuttle Orbiter circling the Earth at an altitude of about 500 miles. Folded into a compact package, the sail would be removed from the Orbiter's cargo hold and deployed like a huge umbrella, with small motors pulling the spars out to their full length and stretching the sail over the framework. Then sunlight pressure would act on the sail, pushing it away from Earth in a spiralling orbit. Though the sail would be a relatively slow vehicle, at least as space speeds go, scientists calculate that it should be capable of attaining speeds as great as 35,000 mph.

Future space exploits will surely include at least several of the purple pigeons. The most unusual project of the whole flock has to be the solar sail.



One way of turning the sail is to deploy small vanes at the corners, as shown in top illustration. Vanes would be controlled by onboard computer. Above: Following Earth launch, spars are extended and sail is in process of unfurling.

Rocket propulsion systems have fuel limitations that rule them out for missions of long duration. Until the sail came under study, NASA was concentrating on another concept: solar electric propulsion. This system uses solar cells to convert sun power into electricity. The electricity is then used to ionize a propellent—vaporize it into individual atoms. The atoms are fed into engines that accelerate them out through the back of the spacecraft, providing thrust.

Big decision coming up

"It appears that by the end of this fiscal year NASA will make a decision on which system—solar electric or solar sail—will go into development." That's the opinion of Jerome L. Wright, manager of JPL's solar sail task force. "It isn't likely," he explained, "that both will be developed. They're just too close in performance to justify that. NASA will probably go with the one that offers the greater mission application, better performance, lower cost and the wider public appeal."

Wright thinks that the sail may have a significant performance advantage over solar electric propulsion for long-duration missions. "Except for its attitude control system," he said, "the sail is completely passive. It doesn't generate electrici-

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ty, there are no ions being accelerated, there's no exhaust."

The sail could become the reusable interplanetary shuttle of the future. It could deliver payloads to the inner planets—Mercury, Mars and Venus—and return to Earth with scientific samples, delivering them to an Earth-orbiting lab. JPL scientists calculate that the sail could carry a 10-ton payload to Mercury and at least 5 tons to Mars.

The system could also be used for missions to asteroids and comets, and for swing-by missions to the outer planets. (But the sail's performance at the outer reaches of the solar system would be diminished because of the weaker sunlight pressure there.)

Tacking toward the sun

Even though the sail is pushed by energy radiating from the sun, it would still be capable of flying toward the sun. The sail would turn so that it would "tack" into the photon stream. Two methods are under study for turning the sail. In one, lanyards pull in the outer edge of one side of the sail, creating an imbalance. As a result, a greater solar pressure is exerted on the fully extended side, causing the sail slowly to change attitude.

The second method would employ four small vanes, one at the tip of each diagonal spar. Control would be achieved by deploying two vanes on the same side, for example, and leaving the other two in the "down" position. The deployed vanes would create the desired imbalance. All such operations would be under the control of an onboard computer.

A rendezvous with Halley's famous comet is under consideration as the sail's first mission. It's a difficult feat—the comet is a high-velocity object with an orbit in the opposite direction from Earth's—but the sail, scientists say, has the unique capability to do the job. Once in orbit with the comet, the sail would be jettisoned, and the instrumented spacecraft it had carried would tag along in the comet's gaseous tail.

To make the rendezvous, the sail must be launched in 1982. It would encounter the comet in March 1986—34 days after the comet makes its closest approach to the sun.

I asked Jerry Wright why JPL had such an interest in comets. "You might say that they have been in cold storage since the birth of the solar system," he said. "Particles that were formed then are still in the comet and are unchanged. No planet remains unchanged. Halley's is the biggest, most active comet we have any chance of getting to."

'We'd like to have an electron microscope aboard for a look at those dust particles. We'd be seeing particles formed at the birth of the solar system.'

Dust, rocks and gases

He explained that comets have two main constituents: rocks and dust, and frozen gases. When the comet nears the sun, the gases vaporize, creating a bright coma at the comet's head and a fiery tail.

"The gases pull dust with them—and everything gets blown out into space," Wright said. "Instruments on the spacecraft would collect samples of what comes out. We'd like to have an electron microscope aboard for a look at those dust particles. We'd be seeing particles formed at the birth of the solar system."

The other purple pigeon projects high on the JPL list include:

■ Four small automated rovers to explore Mars. This would be a logical extension of the Viking Lander missions. The vehicles would be equipped with cameras, "mini-labs" and manipulator arms for sample acquisition and handling. They would travel in pairs so they could work together in certain experiments. A good time for launch, according to JPL scientists, would be in February 1984.

■ A spacecraft launched in 1983 would arrive at Jupiter in 1985 for an inspection tour of its four major moons (first discovered by Galileo). Photos of their surfaces would be obtained and overall chemical compositions determined. Finally, the orbiting spacecraft would drop a lander on the moon Ganymede, establishing an observatory there capable of studying the planet as well as its other moons.

■ Saturn and its planet-sized satellite, Titan, have long interested astronomers. A spacecraft launched at the earliest opportunity, 1985, would arrive at Saturn in 1990. Saturn is nearly a billion miles from Earth. In orbit around the planet, the spacecraft would observe Saturn's rings, atmosphere, radiation environment and satellites. After a few weeks, a daughter spacecraft would separate from the mother ship and land on Titan.

"Titan is probably the most interesting satellite in the solar system," Norman Haynes explained to me. "Almost the size of Mercury, it has a thick atmosphere containing hydrogen and methane—gases in the Earth's original atmosphere. The surface probably contains a lot of water, frozen solid. These are all conditions that indicate a possibility of life."

■ A spacecraft could be placed in a circular orbit around Venus as early as 1981, but another good opportunity appears in 1983. The craft would use a scanning radar system to map the planet's cloud-covered surface.

Though JPL scientists have come up with other new missions, the five purple pigeons described here are the ones they're most enthusiastic about. All five are scientifically sound and aimed at increasing our knowledge of the solar system. The possibility of learning more about how the Earth was formed should interest the American public. At least that's the hope of the space experts at JPL. ★★★

The weak signals from distant spacecraft are picked up by this 210-foot-diameter dish at Goldstone, Calif. Similar antennas in Australia and Spain take over as Earth rotates.

Sporty low-wing two-seater is designed for fast cross-country flying as well as limited aerobatics. Called the Barracuda, it takes engines from 180 to 300 hp. In prototype form, it has 220-hp Lycoming. Cruise is 200 mph, top 218, yet it lands at a tame 64 mph. Construction is all wood with fabric covering, features retract gear. Span, 24 feet, 9 inches; length, 21½ feet; gross weight, 2300 pounds. Plans are $125 from Geoff L. Siers, 5415 West Tapps Dr., Sumner, Wash. 98390.

If you don't recognize this bird, it's because it's been given a colorful personality all its own. Actually, it's a two-place open Pietenpol tricked up to look like WW I fighter with round tail, "elephant ear" wingtips, dummy bomb. Paul DiMascio of Boyer-town, Pa., did the job for $3500, including a 125-hp Lycoming engine. Max speed is 125 mph; span, 29 feet; length, 19 feet. Plans for original are $15 from Pietenpol, Spring Valley, Minn.

They fly what they build

When you have to get in and fly something you've made yourself, you know it has to be designed and built right. Here's a look at some of the latest, most colorful homebuilt aircraft. You can build many of them yourself from plans or kits.

by Sheldon M. Gallager and Howard Levy

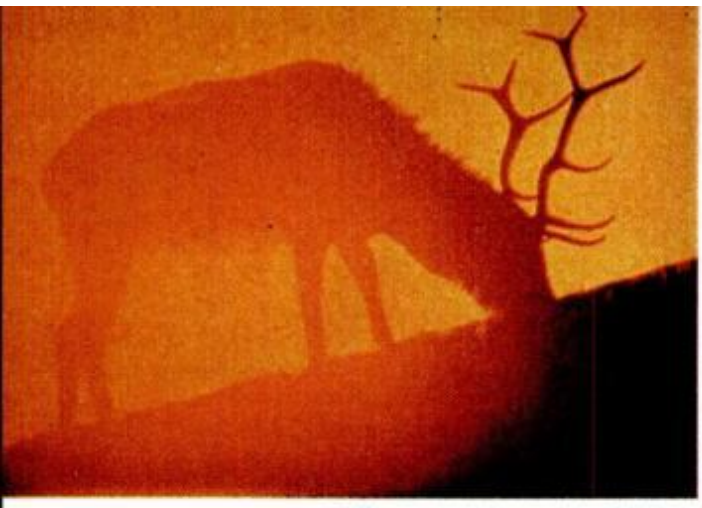
RAF markings help identify this famous flashy fighter as slightly modified 3/5ths-scale WW II Spitfire. Engine is 100-hp Continental; max speed, 150 mph; span, 22 feet, 1½ inches; length, 19 feet, 4 inches; construction, wood and fabric; cost, $3500. Craft has air brakes, is aerobatic. Plans $200, John O. Isaacs, 42 Landguard Rd., Southampton S015DP, England.

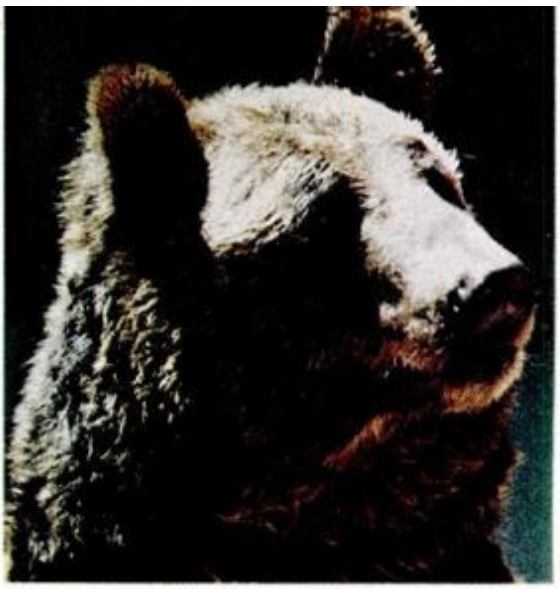
From autogyro to helicopter: Igor Bensen's famous Gyrocopter is on its way to becoming a true helicopter. It's done by adding twin coaxial rotors (above) and a second engine to power them through a chain drive. (The current Gyrocopter has a single unpowered rotor.) The rotors contrarotate to cancel out torque, eliminating the need for a tail rotor. (Steering is done by a conventional rudder.) The present pusher prop will be retained for forward thrust, but the added rotor power will enable the craft to make vertical takeoffs and landings in a small space with no runway. Called the Hovergyro, the new version will sell in kit form for about $5000. Kits will also be available for converting existing Gyrocopters to rotor power. Max speed is 65 to 70 mph; rate of climb, 600 feet per minute; range, 120 miles. Bensen Aircraft Corp., Box 31047, Raleigh, N.C. 27612.

Modified Evans VP-2 (right) sports an added bubble canopy, full electrical system and other refinements, but can be built from stock Evans plans. Craft is the handiwork of aviation instruments designer William Stilley of Milwaukee, cost about $6500. It gets 90 mph from a modest 65-hp Continental, climbs 400 f.p.m., has range of 200 miles. Span is 27 feet; length, 19. Original design is two-seater, but Stilley cut out one seat for baggage room. Plans for open-cockpit version are from W. S. Evans, Box 744, LaJolla, Calif. 92037.

Yep, it's another Bede—this time the BD-7, a four-place beauty that closely follows the sleek, bullet lines of the smaller single-place BD-5. Like the BD-5, it's powered by a pusher prop in the tail. Prototype uses 180-hp Lycoming for top speed of 199 mph, but other engine options range from 100 to 200 hp. Cabin interior is nearly 4 by 8 feet for roomy comfort despite compact design. Span, 24 feet; length, 20.51 feet. Kit, less engine, about $4560. Bede Aircraft, Inc., Newton Municipal Airport, Newton, Kans. 67114.

PM photos: Howard Levy





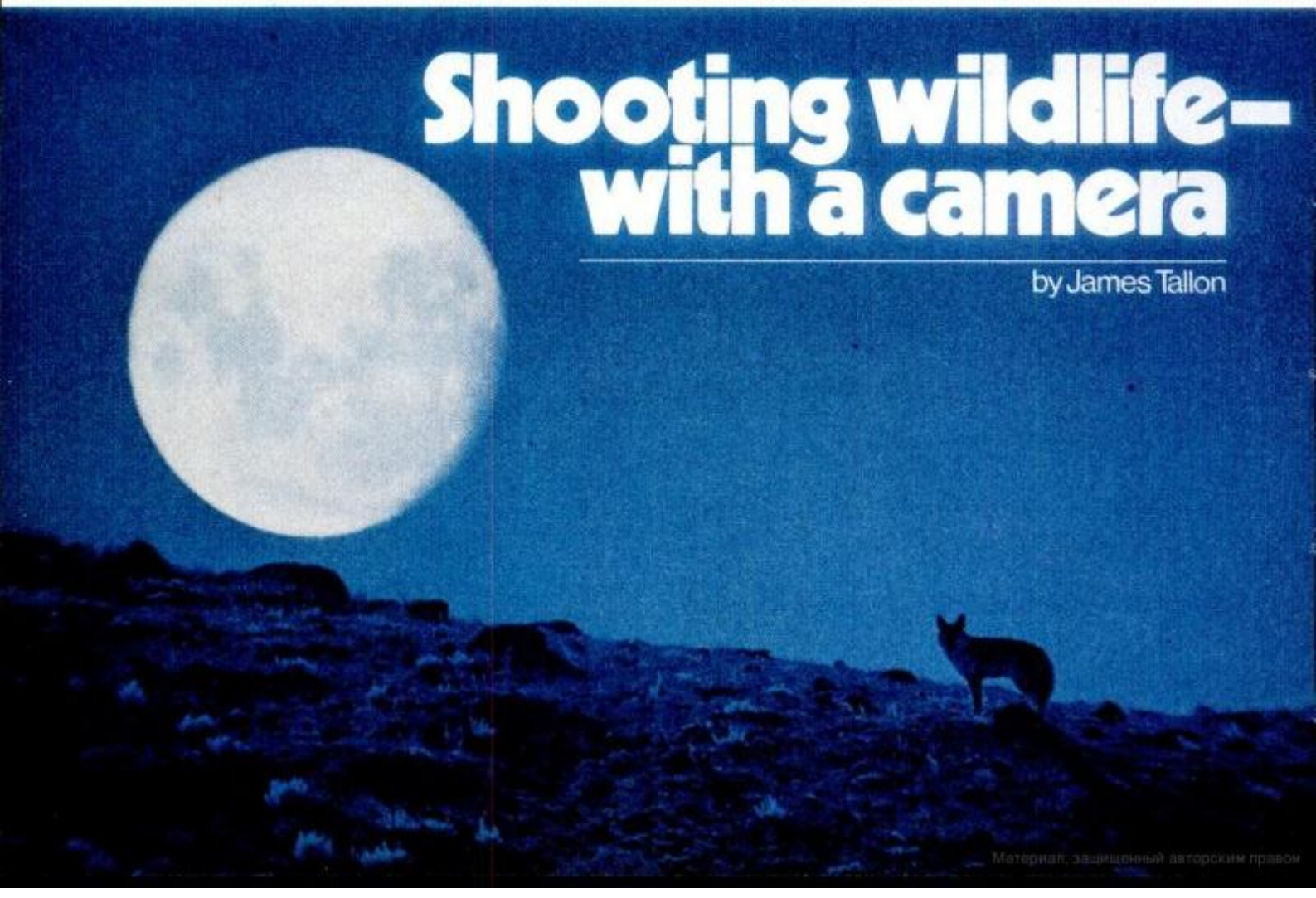
Long telephoto lenses are a wildlife photographer's most useful tool, keeping you far enough away so as not to frighten your subjects—and to let you shoot bear (left) and mountain lions (above) without their frightening you. The author finds that 400 mm is about the most useful focal length for wildlife shooting.

Photos by the author

Portable "blind" (camouflage netting) hides author from animals he's shooting (right). Elk (above) and coyote (below) were shot through deeply colored filters usually used with black-and-white film. Moon in shot is actually on a separate slide, sandwiched together with the coyote shot.

Shooting wildlife—with a camera

by James Tallon



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It was a shirt-sleeve fall morning and Bob Hirsch and I were on the Papago Indian Reservation in Arizona trying to lure coyotes into photo range. Bob sat under an ironwood tree, wrapped in camouflage netting. I was stationed about 75 feet away, more netting covering me and my tripod-mounted reflex with its 400-mm telephoto lens, so that only the lens's glass eye was exposed to the outside world.

Suddenly the morning stillness was shattered by the scream of a rabbit in trouble—it was Bob, using a commercial predator call, a tube of wood with a tuned reed inside. (This mouth-blown instrument will draw in quite a few animals and birds, including such non-predators as deer, javelinas, wild burros, and even songbirds.) The screech from these calls always makes the back hairs on my neck stiffen, and they were just starting to get limber again when I saw something that stiffened them in earnest: a coyote, traveling full-bore toward Bob's back.

The initial idea—getting both Bob and the coyote in the same shot—seemed a shoo-in. But my friend seemed unaware that the animal had zeroed in on his back. And callers *have* been bitten by their callees.

I wanted the picture badly—but I didn't want Bob hurt. I made a split-second decision to snap off a couple of fast shots the instant both Bob and the coyote were in my viewfinder, then shout a warning. I swung the camera to follow the animal.

But as I swung, it did a tricky two-step. Instead of my expected side view, I now had a front view of it—*front* view? Yikes! The coyote had picked a new target: me. Its supersensitive hearing had picked up the slight rustle of the camouflage material, and it no doubt assumed its easy meal had moved.

I was using a follow-focus lens, one with a pistol-grip, squeeze-focusing device that lets you pop the lens from its 27-foot minimum focus to infinity in a

Good shots depend on good lighting, good composition—and good luck. It also helps to know animal habits—when the geese migrate, for instance (above). And you have to be prepared to make your own luck by being ready when the animals are.

Action, like the two bull moose above, makes good wildlife shots. So do static shots, if they are composed well, as at right. When possible, choose a simple background, too, to concentrate attention on your subject. If you can't, simplify the background by throwing it out of focus (long lenses help with this).

Close-ups make good portraits of animals (above). Don't be afraid to leave space around your subjects, to show surroundings. Moody moose shot (left) is an example. Note, too, use of reflection in water, silhouette lighting; not all light need come from over the shoulder.

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fraction of a second. But the coyote was coming at me so fast my adrenalin valve had opened all the way I was shaking so badly I couldn't get a sharp image on the ground glass.

The wind was coming from the coyote's direction; the animal couldn't smell me. When it was just a few feet from me, I screamed—not from fear, mind you, but to let the critter know a human, not a rabbit, occupied the camouflage.

The coyote's intent expression turned to one of pure shock. It performed a half-gainer and then sped off, spending more time in the air than on the ground. Bob howled in laughter.

That was just one of my many wildlife adventures in more than a decade of outdoor shooting. Nearly every trip afield produces some kind of excitement—including that of the pictures I bring back.

What to shoot with

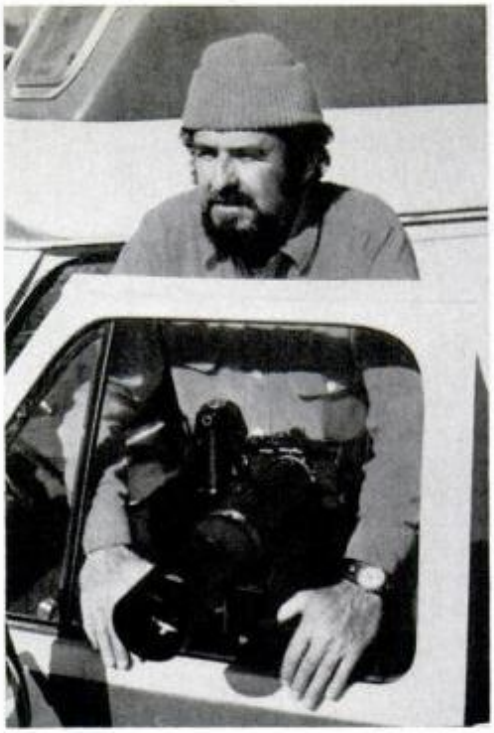
As with any vocation, certain tools and knowledge are needed to break into wildlife photography. I know wealthy people who were able to start with sophisticated motor-driven cameras and thousand-dollar lenses—but you can give them a lot of competition for about $200 and some know-how. My first wildlife outfit was a single-lens reflex that cost just over $100 for the body, plus a 350-mm telephoto that I haggled down to $90. Remarkably, you can now buy 400-mm telephotos—a more practical focal length—for about half that price new.

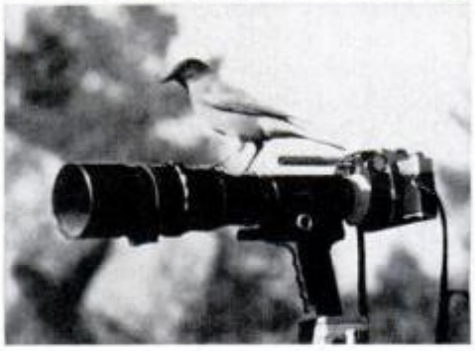
Once you have camera and lens, all you need add is film and you're equipped to take wildlife pictures. I recommend, however, that you buy a tripod and a bellows, as soon as possible. Both are relatively inexpensive. The former will enable you to take sharper pictures and the latter lets you break the close-focusing barrier inherent in most telephoto lenses.

Where to shoot

The best places to shoot wildlife pictures are national parks and monuments and other sanctuaries. Wildlife in them becomes, in varying degrees, adjusted to man's presence. Often these birds and animals will pose for portraits better than children do. It must be remembered, though, that animals are unpredictable. A deer, for example, may pause for pictures one day but take flight the next. Animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects have predictable habits as a species, but individually they don't.

Wildlife refuges of some sort exist in every state in the Union. In those where the bigger animals—bear, elk, moose, buffalo—roam free, the pursuit of wildlife photography can be hazardous. In a less wild environment, birds and animals become less afraid of man.





Author uses many tricks to get his shots. He uses his car not only for transportation but also (above) as a rolling tripod and wildlife blind. Hidden bait drew the pinyon jay (right) to perch on the author's follow-focus 400-mm lens; a second camera —always good to have—took the shot. Loudspeaker (above, right) broadcasts wildlife cries from portable tape recorder to bring animals into camera range.

Yellowstone National Park is one of my favorite spots for wildlife photography. A big animal habitat visited by thousands of people who have been raised on a diet of Disney's talking animals, the park is an excellent place to see the chances novice photographers will take.

Near Mount Washburn one summer day, I found a road blocked by a "bear-jam," a pile-up of vehicles whose drivers have stopped in the middle of the road to see or photograph a bear. The culprit who caused it all was a two-thirds-grown female black bear, a roadside beggar. Despite red-printed National Park Service warnings not to feed bears or approach them too closely, dozens of people were in flagrant violation. One young man grabbed an ear of the bear while his friend tried to snap a shot of him doing it. The animal whirled and lashed out with four-inch-long claws at the man's face. I expected to see horrible mutilation, but the bear missed him by a scant fraction of an inch.

The bear-approachers on Mount Washburn exhibited sheer foolishness, but shooting pictures of wildlife always involves some risks, no matter how careful or how experienced the photographer may be.

When in doubt, duck!

Approaching Brooks Lake in northwestern Wyoming's Rocky Mountains, I followed a cow moose into the forest and lost track of it. Then I saw a pair of eyes hurtling my way with 1000 pounds of animal attached to them. I stepped behind a Douglas fir and the critter passed close enough to touch. I didn't get its picture, but I was all right.

Cow moose are quick to charge when they think their young are threatened. So when a curious calf saw me trying to shoot it and its mother against a background of Yellowstone Park spectators, I shooed it away. Luckily, mother had her head down, feeding. But the calf came back, and this time the cow saw me.

Again I had a half ton of irate animal thundering toward me. I had an escape route planned: back into the safety of the woods at the edge of the meadow. But just inside, I jumped on a damp deadfall and my feet went out from under me. I ex-

(Please turn to page 138)

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IT'S NEW NOW

Super stern-wheeler for the Mississippi

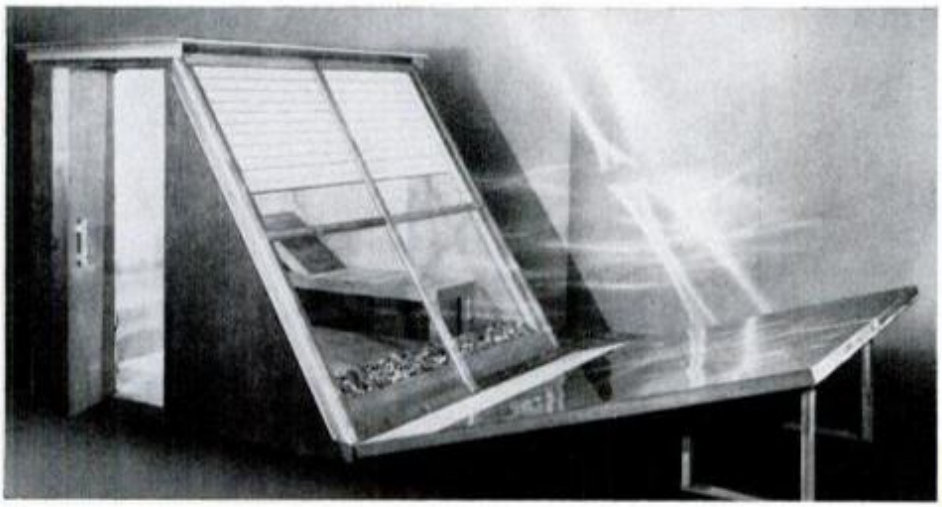
First overnight Mississippi passenger boat to be built in 50 years, the paddle-wheeler *Mississippi Queen* would have Mark Twain gasping in awe. Stacked seven decks high, she boasts a swimming pool, automatic elevators, beauty shops, bars, restaurants, posh lounges and brass-trimmed grand staircase. She's 379 feet long, 68 wide and is propelled by a 35x25-foot steam-driven paddle wheel powered by oil-fired boilers. Her crew numbers 125, and she accommodates 500 passengers.

Electric-powered model planes

Battery-operated control-line airplanes are the latest in flying-model circles. New Electro-Charge craft, 13 inches long with 16-inch wingspans, are powered by motors driven by nicad batteries recharged from a safe 6-volt supply. Three models—"Fireball" P-51 Mustang, "Racer" and "Spitfire"—available at toy and hobby centers. L.M. Cox, 1505 East Warner Ave., Santa Ana, Calif. 92705.

Dog turns on lights

Thieves may think twice when they hear your dog bark and see lights go on in the house as well. A sensor called Barklight plugs between lamp and outlet and turns on the light when triggered by a dog's barking. The light stays lit for 60 seconds after the barking has stopped. It costs about $40 from Crime Stoppers, Box 67141, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067.

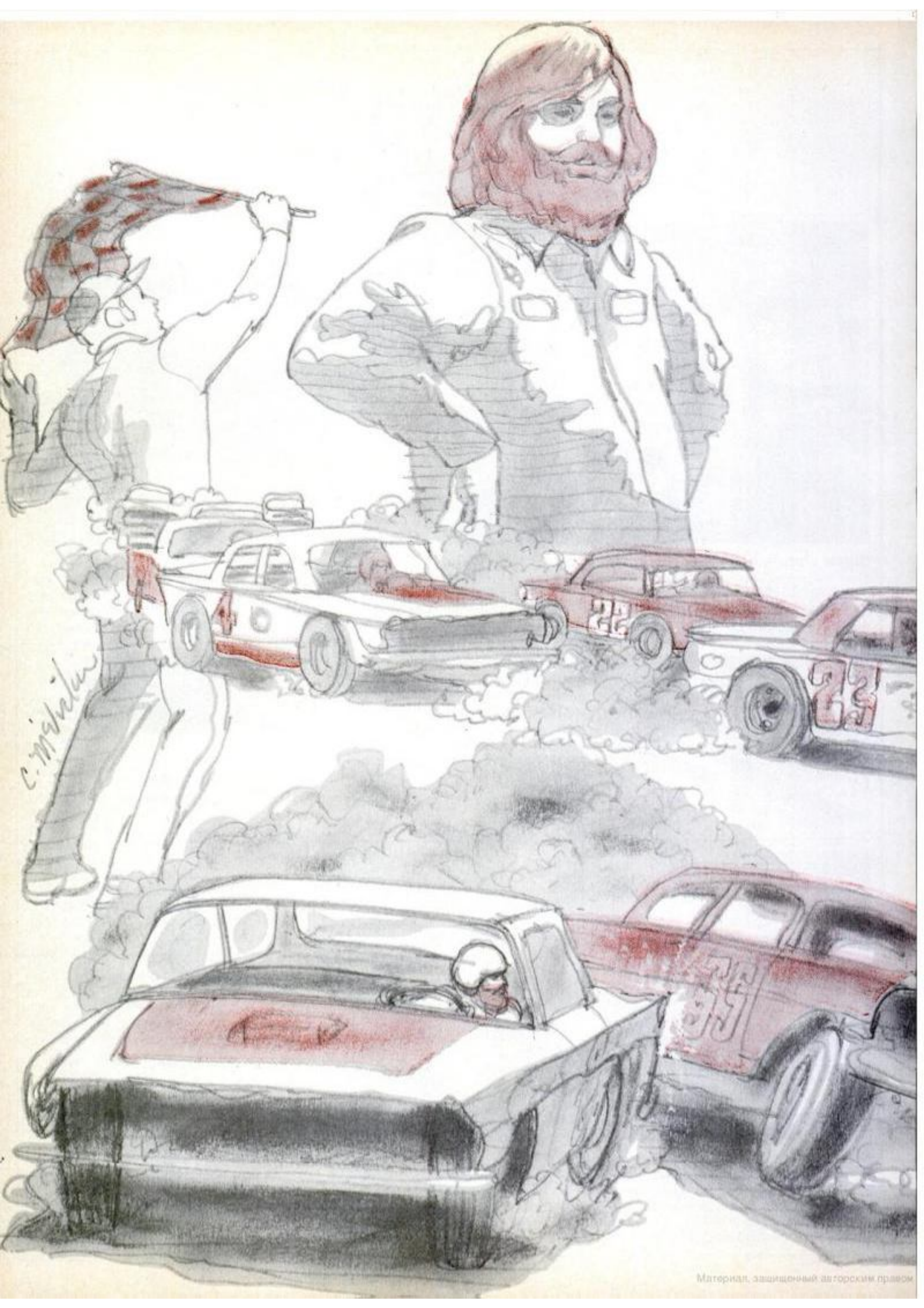


Sun-warmed sauna

Using "greenhouse effect" to warm things up, a new Solar Sauna needs no fuel. The 8 x 8-foot unit has a hinged reflector that drops to a 15° angle, directing sunlight to the urethane-insulated interior through plastic, heat-trapping panes. Result: 180°F. inside when it's 47°F. out. A bed of rocks holds in heat overnight. Priced from $1495 up. Am-Finn, Seventh and Washington, Red Hill, Pa. 18076.

Jig those mitered frames

Gluing mitered joints on picture or cabinet-door frames is easy with a new Porta-Press. Pivoting corner clamps self-adjust from 8x8 to 36x48 inches to hold work square. Universal Clamp, 6905 Credos, Van Nuys, Calif. 91405.



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Hot dogging it in the bullring

In auto racing it's the local short tracks—or bullrings—where the action is.

by Bill Kilpatrick

PM art: Chuck McVicker

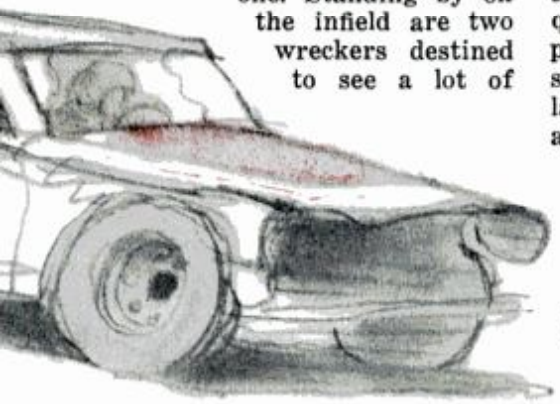
It is a warm Saturday night in August and a friend and I are sitting in one end of a peeling-paint grandstand at a small "bullring" racetrack in the Connecticut boonies.

Down in front of us on Turn One of a quarter-mile, slightly banked oval of dimly lit asphalt, 14 or so rather sorry-looking "race cars" are jamming through the bend, hoping to emerge reasonably intact. For a moment they look like a pack of amusement park dodge-ems run amuck, and I feel myself cringe every time they give each other a rap.

First qualifying heat

Each driver has his eye on finishing sixth or better in this first of two 10-lap qualifying heats that will determine who gets to run in the feature. Winning the heat is pure glory, no money, and even if a guy goes on to win the feature, all he takes home is $100, so the motivation can't be to get rich. Here, the siren call has to be to gain experience and—maybe—a bit of fleeting and strictly localized fame.

This is stock-car racing so minor league it is sanctioned by no one. Standing by on the infield are two wreckers destined to see a lot of action, and an ambulance, which may or may not.



The thing is, a pleasant young fellow we know is out there trying to survive the mayhem with a minimum of wrinkles and shake-ups to what a blaring and fuzzy public address system assures us is "car number 23, a Ford driven by Larry Ross of Southport." We know he and the guys in his crew have worked hard all week in their spare time to get the car ready for tonight, and it will be a shame if some turkey, staggering all over the track, takes him out of there. Our friend has about the only car in the race that comes even close to being properly set up, and we figure he's duck soup to win it, at least make the feature.

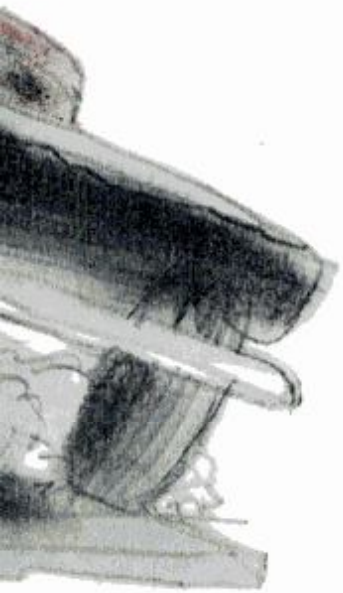
As the cars come around on the second lap, Ross has moved from seventh to fifth. In the process he has been bumped a couple of times, one a teeth-rattler from behind. He cuts through Turn One quickly and economically, picks up another car, and slips into a comfortable fourth. One lap later he's running third, nibbling almost leisurely at the rump of the second-place car.

Race continues

Halfway around the track in front of him two also-rans "get married" and on go the caution lights. We see a frustrated Ross slap his steering wheel; he's running strong, and the last thing he wants to see right now is the yellow flag.

But the "marriage" is brief. Within a few yards, one car careens onto the infield, presumably out of it, and the other wobbles on down the track, its driver fighting to hold things together. One of the infield wreckers shoves the debris out of range and, after a lap-and-a-half on the caution, the starter is frantically waving his green flag, signaling the resumption of the race. Ross stands on it and the Ford flies.

On lap eight, as they charge into the turn in front of us, the guy running second is a little too eager. He loses it a bit and swings wide up toward the marbles. Ross zaps by on the inside and starts chewing the leader. He shoots high out of Turn Two, trying to take the guy on the straight, and even though he stays loud deep into Turn Three, he has to back off and let his man get away.



I'm on my feet, screaming to Ross to stay put, for a moment forgetting that a race driver is a race

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driver, period, and the reason he's out there is that he has to blow the doors off everything in sight.

Last lap

Back at Turn One on the gun lap, Ross keeps his foot in it until the last possible split-second, then slices across the leader's nose, receiving for his effort a thumping rap in the left rear, shunting him somewhat out of shape. But Ross recovers nicely, gets the car sorted out and rolls home to take the checkered flag.

It was, of course, a nothing race won by a journeyman driver in a once-was '62 Ford, the body of which looks like recycled washboards, but I'm tickled pink. I know I've got a big grin plastered all over my face, and anyone looking at me would think my guy had just won the Big One at Daytona. Looking around me, however, it's all too plain that this place and the racing we have just seen are light years away from Daytona and its tinseled thunder.

Plainville Stadium, just off Interstate 84, is about 10 miles southeast of Hartford. If you didn't know where to turn, you might have trouble finding it. We saw only one sign —a small, black A-frame perched in front of a gas station, its chalked legend reading, "Plainville Stadium. Racing Tonite. 8 P. M." As an afterthought at the bottom of the sign there was a chalked arrow indicating we should turn left.

The Stadium isn't a stadium at all. There's the guard-railed racetrack, a single county fair-type grandstand, a couple of unspeakable restrooms, a handful of competing refreshment stands, and, outside the surrounding fence, a dusty, open-field parking lot.

Hybrid cars

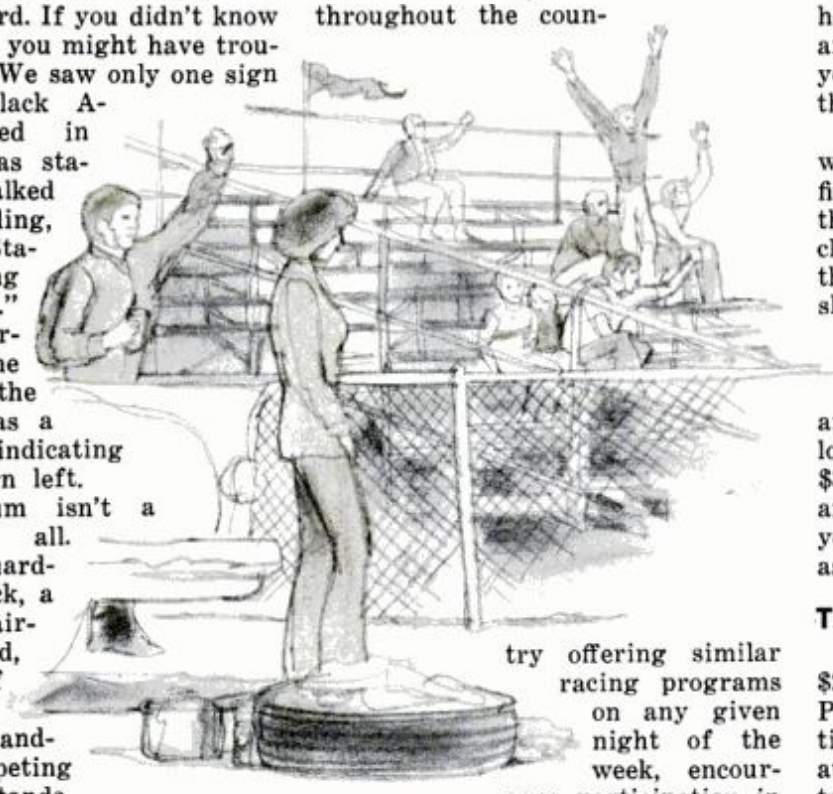
The infield occasionally offers attractions other than wracked-up race cars. On this night, for example, several posters, plus a scratchy recording played over the PA system, tout a shabby, mud-show circus slated to open at the Stadium the following week. (Looking out at the dust and dirt and the litter and the general seediness, it seems an unlikely locale for the promised "pree-meer" acts the recording assures us are "direct from the capitals of Europe.")

Racing at Plainville runs on Saturday nights from spring until fall and usually features hybrid (often wildly and ingeniously so) modifieds and a class of stock cars the local promoter calls "pleasure" cars that at other tracks might be classified as Hobby or Novice/Sportsman. They are cars nearing the end of their racing lives driven by drivers just a notch above out-and-out novices.

The 'pleasure' class

The "pleasure" class can—and now and then does—include cars that once might have competed (or have been built to compete) on NASCAR's Grand National circuit. The emphasis at Plainville, however, is on modifieds, the drivers of which compete for purse money of anywhere from $500 to $750 or $300.

But Plainville, like other tracks throughout the country offering similar racing programs on any given night of the week, encourages participation in the lowest, or "pleasure" class, the idea being to provide "on-the-job training" for drivers who just might attract a loyal following of fans, and who might one day move up to modifieds. With this in mind, local rules are designed to hold the costs of racing to a minimum. For example, at Plainville "pleasure" cars must run on retreads; new racing tires are forbidden. Similarly, all engine parts must be off-the-shelf stock. Such exotica as racing cams and special headers are taboo. Teardowns to insure compliance with the rules—particularly if a car wins handily—are random and frequent.



As might be expected of racing on this level, its fans are, in general, a yeasty lot. The crowd seems to consist of young couples and family groups, often including toddlers, even infants.

How Larry began racing

Larry Ross is the proprietor of an Arco gas station in Southport, Conn. He and his guys pump a goodly amount of gas, but the main business is car service. He enjoys a good local reputation as being a straight-shooter and a fine mechanic. Although he has been involved in one way or another in racing for more than 10 years, he has been driving for only the past two.

"It's something I guess I've always wanted to do," he says "and finally, a couple of years ago, I took the plunge. We bought the car's chassis for $50 and built it from the ground up, working from photos, sketches and information we got out of magazines and from what we'd picked up from working on race cars and from hanging around racetracks. I know it doesn't look like much, but we've got over $3000 just in the car. If I've learned anything over this past couple of years, it's that there's no such thing as racing on the cheap."

Tires alone cost $1400

Ross estimates that it costs about $2000 a season to run his car at Plainville. For this past season, his tire bill alone was $1400, and that's at $40 a pop for retreads as opposed to $110-125 for new rubber. Engine parts he scrounges from junkyards, parts suppliers and friends.

"We're running a 390 engine, so parts aren't too hard to get," he says, "but there are times—usually when I'm going over my books—when I think a lot of 'em must be made out of pure gold."

In addition to the car itself, Ross has close to $2000 wrapped up in a converted school bus used to transport car, crew and spares to the

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track. An admittedly tired '68 Dodge, it cost Ross $550.

"But, like Topsy, it sort of 'growed,' and while it's no beauty, it at least keeps things warm and out of the rain."

Racing with a partner

Ross races with a partner named Ken Barta, who has been driving three years. Under the banner "Ros-Bar Racing," a legend appearing prominently on the sides of their converted bus, Ross and Barta field a two-car team, both in the "pleasure" class. Barta also drives a Ford and this past season finished third in the overall point standings at Plainville.

"I haven't got the exact numbers," Ross says, "but Kenny and I figure we came fairly close to breaking even for the year, which in this business means you've had a successful season.

"Next year, if a couple of things fall into place and we're lucky enough to pick up a little sponsorship, we intend to race a four-car team, one of which will be a modified. Another fellow is going to drive the extra stock car, and Kenny and I will work it out as to which one of us gets to drive the modified, which we're both hot to do.

"Look," Ross adds, smiling, "I'm 29 and Kenny's 26, and if either of us are ever going to go anywhere in this business, we've got to start trying to move up to a better class of racing."

Ross admits to having his eye on Grand National racing, but recognizes and respects the odds against his ever getting a crack at it.

"The woods have got to be full of guys, a lot of 'em younger than I am, who'd like the same thing, and I know most of us aren't ever going to make it, but heck, just *once* before I quit I'd like to get a ride in a dynamite car.

"I suppose a lot of people would think that sort of thing is crazy," Ross says, "but it's my dream, and to me it's as good as any."

The feature

It is now a little past 9:30, and intermission at Plainville—a sort of seventh-inning stretch during which fans cruise the refreshment stands and hit the biffys, or simply wave to each other and visit—is just about over. The first half of the program ran three heats of modifieds and two heats of "pleasure" cars, so everybody knows the drivers who will run in the features, and the crowd is anxious for things to get underway. First one, then two, then several engines in the pit area fire into action, and the circus record is summarily silenced as the announcer comes back on to herald the start of what he says promises to be "slam-bang racing action."

Because Ross won his heat and Barta finished second in his, the partners will be running against each other in the stock-car feature. They've found themselves in this situation many times, and it puts no strain on their friendship. In fact, because Barta is still a contender for the season's point championship, Ross—barring his own chance to win—will do all he can short of bold-faced obstruction and foolish driving to help Barta take the checkered flag.

Starting way back

One by one the cars in the feature roll onto the track from a gate near Turn Two and accelerate off down the back straight. They zap around, often weaving back and forth to heat and scuff up their tires before falling into some semblance of order for the parade lap. Starting positions have been determined by a system Ross has decided is pretty much the promoter's whim. At best, it appears to be a rule-of-thumb handicap scheme aimed at giving every driver a crack at winning while at the same time giving Plainville's fans the sort of racing action they expect to see. Both Ross and Barta are slotted well back in the pack.

The first attempt at a start is a fizzle; two cars tangle just as the green flag drops and must be pried apart. On the second attempt at a start, a third car accelerating out of Turn Three plows into the wall and has to call it quits for the night. By now the fans are laughing and hooting, shouting both encouragement and abuse at the cars as they straggle by to get themselves lined up again.

Finally, as the cars roll out of Turn Three, the starter waves his green flag and the drivers pour it on as they head into Turn Four and shoot down the grandstand straight. The roar of their acceleration down the straight is followed by chirps and grinds and groans as the cars brake and set up for Turn One.

A close call

Ross and Barta both pick up a couple of cars as they rifle through the bend, but Ross has a close call. One car on the inside is chattering through the turn, its rear end hopping out in a wide, bouncing arc that almost nails Ross. He receives only a slight thump, however, scoots through the loop at the end of the track and pops into fifth place. As the cars hurtle into and through Turn Four, which we can't see because it's off to our extreme left, we hear a bang and see the caution lights flash on. Along with everyone else, we stand and look, our necks craning to see what has happened. Apparently there has been some kind of a smashup. The cars back off and roll through our end of the track as the red lights halting the race come on. No Larry. For a moment, my stomach turns, rollcage or no rollcage. I've only just met the guy, and I like him, and I hope nothing has happened to him.

One of the infield wreckers moves up and onto the track and disappears from view behind the knot of fans who have run down out of the stands and along the fence to see what has happened. In a few minutes, the wrecker comes back into view, dragging behind it a wrinkled "car No. 23, driven by Larry Ross of Southport." It then dawns on me that the ambulance hasn't moved, so things can't be too serious. In a moment we see an unhappy Larry Ross being hauled by in the car, his dejected eye on a right front tire and wheel buried in a mashed fender at an

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Amplifier kits: Good sound with built-in savings

by Andy Santoni

PM photos: Steve Fay

Building your own amplifier from a kit is fun, and lets you get top-dollar performance for a minimum outlay. Power amplifiers like the one shown here are easiest to build; so if you're an inexperienced kit-builder, start with one of them rather than a more complex preamplifier or integrated amplifier kit.

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Amplifier and preamplifier kits, far left from top, are Ace Zero-Distortion preamplifier, $90; Ace 35X2-watt amplifier, $150; Dyna PAT-5 preamplifier, $239; Dyna ST-300, 150X2-watt amplifier, $399; Heath AA-1640, 200X2-watt amplifier, $180 (35X2-watt version, $130); Southwest Technical Products 207/B, 60-watt monophonic amplifier, $78; Schober TR-3M, 70X2-watt amplifier, $176. Below: Heath AP-1615 preamplifier, $130; Heath AN-2016 Modulus tuner/preamplifier, $600-770; Dyna ST-400, 200X2-watt amplifier, $584 with optional meters shown.

Most of us would love to own the ultimate amplifier for our hi-fi systems, with knobs and switches enough for total control and enough power to drive any speakers to ear-crunching volume. What stops us is the price.

But you can get a lot more amplifier for a lot less money if you make one from a kit—and you'll make yourself a few evenings' fun in the bargain. Most amplifier kits, especially those from the major hi-fi kit companies, look good, sound right and hold up for years. (And if they do give trouble, most kit manuals—especially Heath's—tell you how to track the trouble down and cure it.)

How much do you save by building an amplifier from a kit? About one-third the cost of the same amplifier in a wired version. And since wired versions, when available, are generally competitive in price with similar units not in kit form, you can truly save yourself a bundle—several hundred dollars in the case of some top-of-the-line, high-power amplifiers.

Which amplifier is for you?

Kit or wired, amplifiers come in two basic types: "integrated" models, with both the controls and the speaker-driving circuitry in one box, or "separates," with the preamplifier stages and controls in one box and the speaker-driving circuits in another.

Integrated amplifiers are least expensive and easiest to hook up and use, which makes them the most popular type of factory-wired amplifier. But with more circuitry in one box, they're a bit harder to build from a kit, and the build-it-yourself savings are less with less expensive components, so most amplifier kits are separates.

Separate preamplifiers and power amplifiers are usually easier to build than integrated amplifiers. In fact, power amplifiers are the simplest and easiest hi-fi kits. Preamps, though, are only a bit easier than integrated amps.

The prime advantage of separates is flexibility. You can choose a combination that most closely meets your needs and fits your wallet. Also, you can change it easily if your requirements change.

If you live in a small room and use efficient speakers, you can mate a low-cost, low-power amplifier with a complex and expensive preamp that gives you all the control features you want, such as monitoring and dubbing facilities for two or more tape decks, two turntable inputs and switching for external graphic equalizers (page 188, Nov. '76) or noise reducers (page 82, Aug. '75). Or you can get a preamplifier with a minimum of controls and a low price. Then, if you need to drive a pair of inefficient

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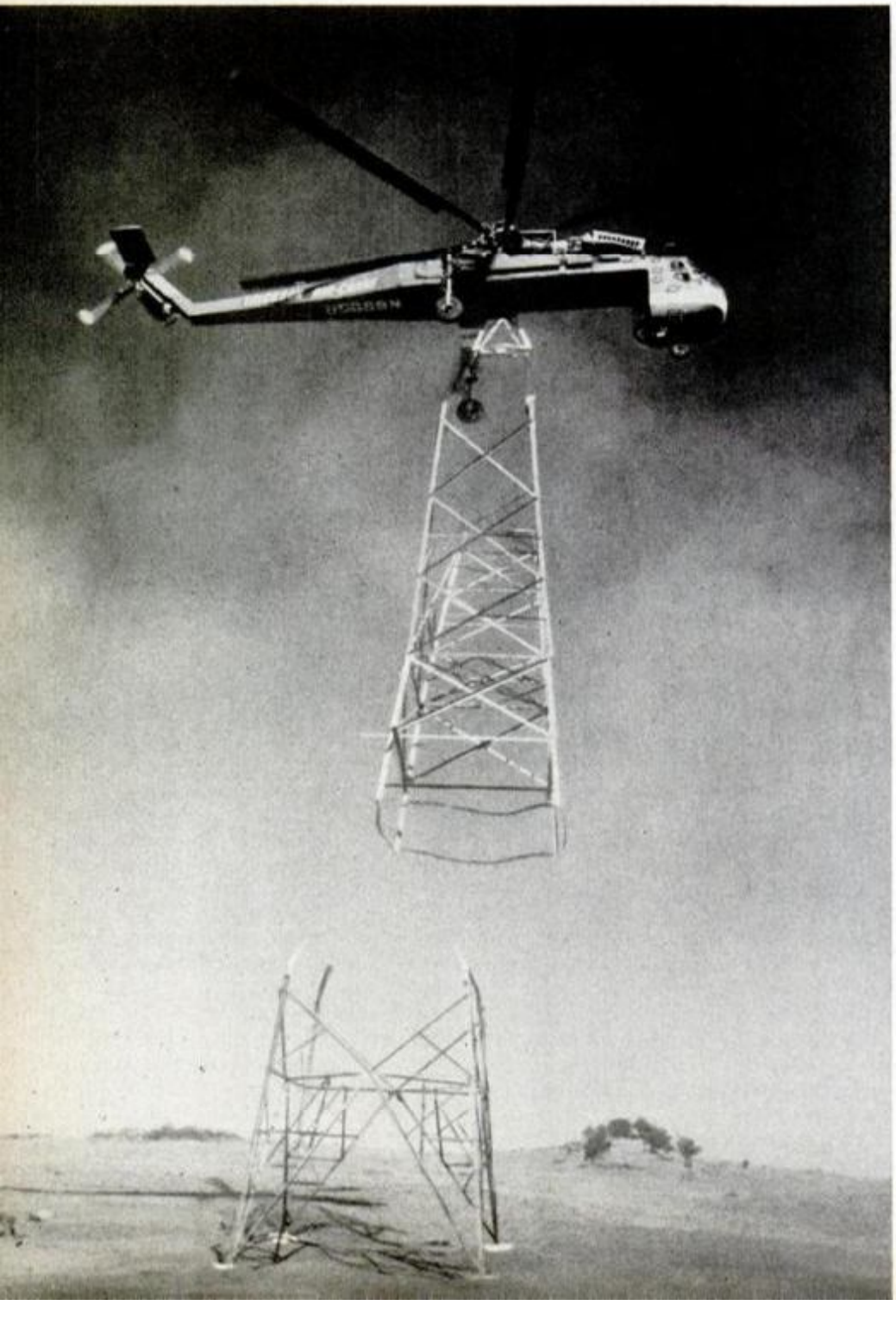
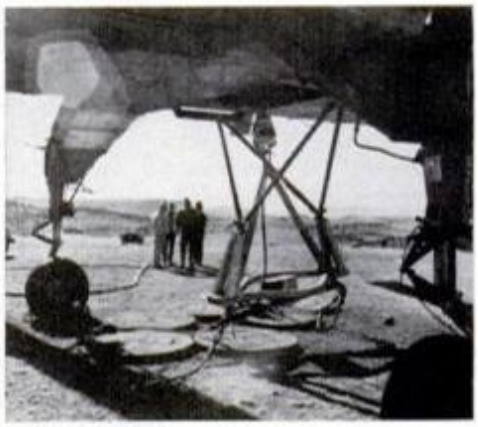
Материал, защищенный авторским правом

The chopper they call when the chips are down

This odd-looking helicopter has proven itself as an Army workhorse, super construction crane and ace unloader of ships' cargo. But the Skycrane's most impressive feat was putting the top on the world's tallest structure.

by John F. Pearson
SCIENCE EDITOR





In the aft pilot's seat, Larry Pravecek "flies the hook" (top photo). The angled guide—a key device in the installation operation—can be seen attached to tower section lying on ground (middle photo). Other vital pieces of gear are the cage and spreader bar underneath the fuselage (above). Left: Copter airlifts section.

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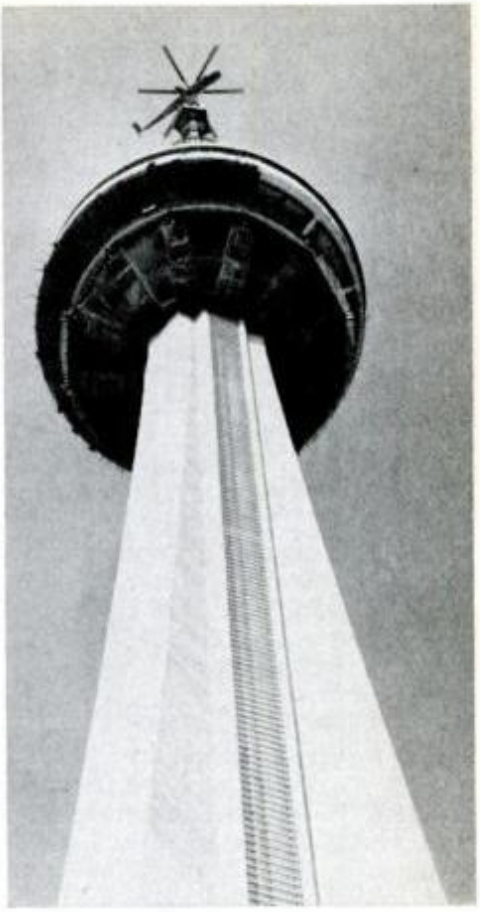
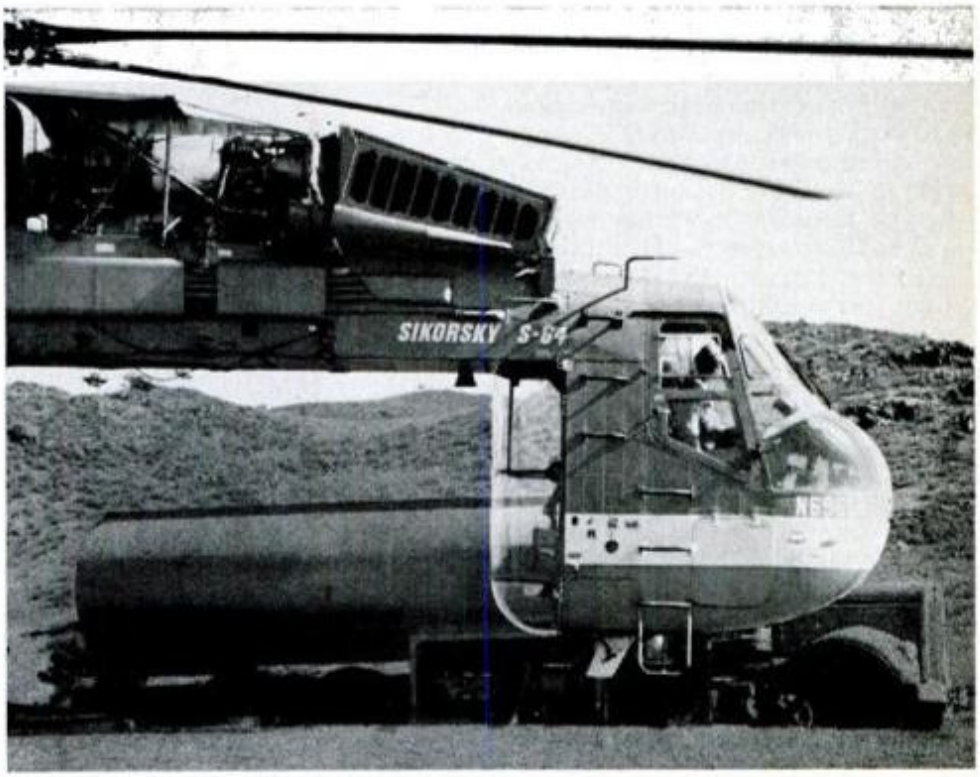


The wide view of fish-eye lens—used in a camera rigged to Skycrane's fuselage—makes it possible to see CN Tower, landing gear and cage (at top) and aft pilot (at bottom). Top, right: Skycrane hovers over 1805-foot tower in Toronto. Right: Time out for refueling during operations near Laramie, Wyo. Dave Kohornen keeps eye on things from forward pilot's seat, but the aft control position is unoccupied.



The six-bladed rotor was turning, cutting a 72-foot-diameter hole in the air of Wyoming. A mechanic scrambled up a broad, angled landing-gear strut for a close look at the rotor hub on top of the fuselage. This was routine takeoff procedure—an oil leak would signal trouble.

The mechanic climbed down, waggled his hand (everything was okay) and kicked away the wheel chocks. Pilot Dave Kohornen eased on the power. The rotor bit into the air—and we lifted off. Within seconds we were skimming the sparsely grassed plain south of Laramie. The Skycrane was off to do a day's work.

Looks like a big bug

In profile, the Sikorsky Skycrane has to be one of the oddest-looking planes ever built. It has a bulbous nose, a long, thin fuselage and wide-stanced, oversized landing gear. Aloft, it resembles a giant mantis. But the craft makes up in strength and stability what it lacks in looks. It can pick up and carry up to 10 tons under its flat belly and deliver the cargo with pinpoint accuracy, as I would see for myself.

The Skycrane is unusual in another way, too—it has an auxiliary control position. In addition to the two forward piloting positions, there's an aft seat where another pilot looks out toward the tail through a large plastic bubble that runs from above his eye level and curves under his feet, giving him a bird's-eye view of the cable coming out of the plane's fuselage, the cargo hooks and the cargo. From here, you "fly the hook."

On this run, Larry Pravecek was in the aft seat. Larry is a lanky man in his mid-30s, a friendly sort who's logged over 2000 hours in Skycranes. He's a former Sikorsky test pilot, and people at Sikorsky describe him as "one of the best in the business."

Perched on a step leading to the forward part of the cockpit, I sat next to Larry and shared his view

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aft. Pilot Dave Kohornen—a former Navy flier who sports a luxuriant blond mustache—was up front in the right forward seat.

Larry and Dave fly for the Erickson Air Crane Co. of Hillsboro, Ore. Erickson owns three Skycranes, using them primarily for lumbering and installing powerline transmission towers. The current job involved a 140-mile stretch running from southeastern Wyoming into northern Colorado. They had been working almost three weeks and completed over 30 miles of towers.

Erickson is a contracting company that does the whole job of installing powerlines—from putting in the concrete footings for the tower legs to stringing the wire. Jack Erickson, the head man, regards the Skycrane as another tool. "It lets us do the job a lot faster," he says.

Towers assembled in yards

The typical Erickson operation involves establishing a marshaling yard every 10 miles along the powerline route. Tower sections are assembled in these yards. There usually are three sections—legs, body and bridge—for each tower. The bridge is the wide top section from which insulators and electric conductors hang. Normally, five towers are set for each mile. In the marshaling yard, tower sections are tagged according to location. Sections marked 10/1, for example, make up the first tower in the 10th mile; 20/3 designates tower 3 in the 20th mile.

On the current job, the Erickson crew was working the section between the 30 and 40-mile markers. Larry told me that the first few lifts would be for installing bodies and bridges on legs already in place.

In this type of operation, incredibly smooth teamwork is needed. Wearing intercom-equipped helmets, the two pilots talk almost constantly —and not about the weather. Though they face in opposite directions, each knows exactly what's going on at any given second. I was wearing a headset, too, so I could listen in.

Dave flew the big chopper up to a couple of hundred feet, then made a beeline for the nearest marshaling yard to start in where they'd left off the previous day. Larry consulted a chart. "Start with 34/2," he said.

In the yard area, the chopper hovered over a bridge section. When we were in good position, Larry said, "I've got it," and took over with his controls. Riggers on the ground grabbed the helicopter's four cargo hooks and snapped them on cables attached to bridge section 34/2. Larry told Dave to take over, and off we went, the Skycrane not even breathing hard.

Within minutes we were hovering

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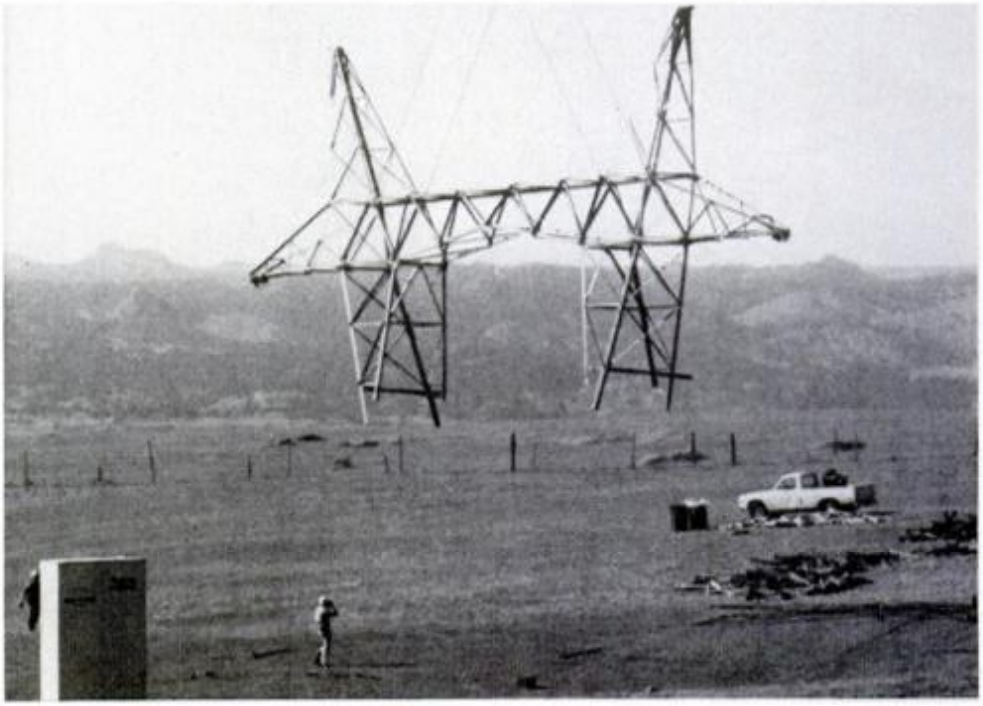

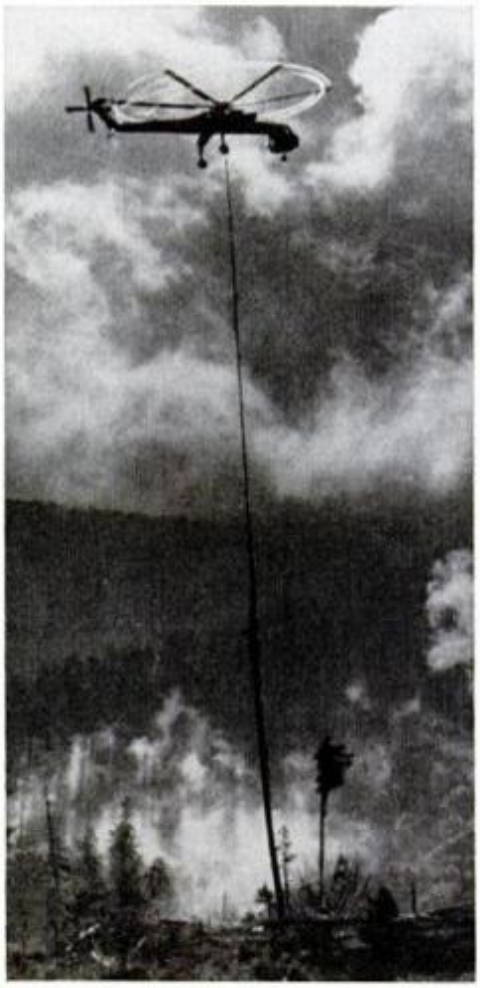

Making it look easy, Erickson's Skycrane carries an 8000-pound bridge section over Wyoming plain as powerline job progresses.

The big-muscled bird has proven useful for placing heavy equipment on rooftops (below) and for selective logging (right). The Sikorsky Skycrane has two 4500-hp turbine engines, a 72-foot-diameter rotor and boasts a maximum speed of 126 mph and a range of 230 miles. The helicopter is capable of transporting 10-ton cargoes.

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FIRSTHAND REPORT

by Michael Lamm
WEST COAST EDITOR

Driving the new 30-mpg Gremlin

American Motors's new four-cylinder engine is just what the Gremlin needed.

Improved economy, handling and modest price make restyled Gremlin Four a good value.

I had a chance to drive the new four-cylinder Gremlin in Southern California recently. Frankly, I'd expected a not particularly inspired car to be made even less so in the new version.

But to my complete surprise, the lightweight four-cylinder AMC engine takes this car out of the "makeshift" category (it is, after all, a chopped-tail Hornet) and makes it —at last—an integrated, pleasant-to-drive, economical machine—something it should have been from the beginning.

First, let's talk about performance. I drove the Four with both the manual four-speed transmission and the three-speed automatic. Acceleration with the Warner four-speed feels amazingly strong; actually, it probably *feels* stronger than it is—in the same way as the old VW Beetle. Zero-to-60 mph time and quarter-mile elapsed time take exactly one second longer with the Four than with the 232-c.i.d. Six (16 vs. 15 seconds and 21 vs. 20 seconds, respectively). That's not half bad considering the gain in fuel mileage.

The Warner four-speed has long, long second and third gears that wind out to an uncomplaining 50 and 70 mph. This means good passing in tight highway situations. I recommend the four-speed over the automatic for all-around performance and gas mileage.

On the topic of economy, I averaged 28.7 mpg in normal driving. This was with the automatic. About half that came in town, the other half on the freeway. AMC pegs the numbers at "up to 25 mpg in city driving and 35 mpg in the highway cycle."

What about handling? It's better with the new four-cylinder engine than with either of the first two—the in-line Six and last year's 304 V8. The Six (actually in two displacement versions, 232 and 258 c.i.d.) is still available, but not the V8. Both those powerplants tended to make the Grem nose-heavy. Handling never did feel right, nor did

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Gremlin's new, four-cylinder, in-line powerplant is an overhead-cam design that originated with Audi. It lightens front end, giving the car better handling.

GREMLIN ENGINE COMPARISONS

	AMC Four	Base AMC Six
Engine type	In-line Four, belt-driven overhead-cam, cast-iron block, aluminum crossflow head, five mains, water cooling.	In-line Six, pushrod overhead valves, cast-iron block/head, seven mains, water cooling.
Displacement	121 cu. in./1984 cc	232 cu. in./3804 cc
Bore and stroke	3.41 x 3.32 in.	3.75 x 3.50 in.
Compression ratio	8.1:1	8.0:1
Bhp @ rpm	80 @ 5000	90 @ 3050
Torque @ rpm	105 @ 2800	163 @ 2200
Engine weight (approx.)	295 lbs.	495 lbs.
Carburetor	2-bbl.	1-bbl.
Car curb weight	2550 lbs.	2761 lbs.

Note: External and internal car dimensions are identical for all Gremlins, whether powered by the Four or the Six.

PM OWNERS REPORT: OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS

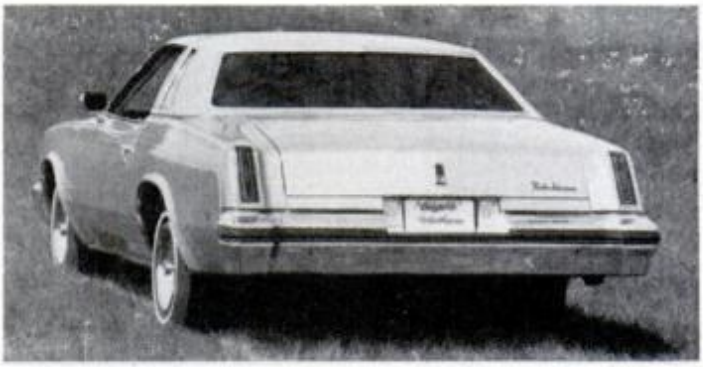
Why did owners make Cutlass Detroit's 1976 best seller?

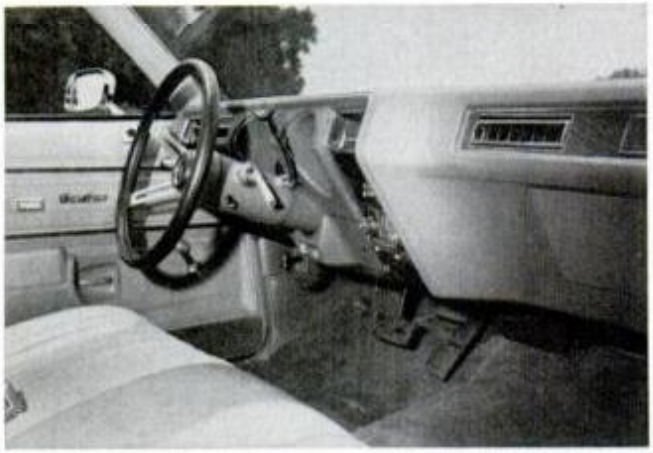
A nationwide survey based on 940,928 owner-driven miles

by Michael Lamm WEST COAST EDITOR

Photos by the author

Note: The Cutlass you see in these photos is a 1977 model, while our survey comprises owners of 1976 Cutlasses who bought their cars last July. Since the car, a red-hot seller last year, is but little changed for '77, PM believes that there should be considerable interest in what these owners have to say about their cars.





Sporty looks of the Cutlass and owners' good experience with previous Oldses account greatly for car's success. But short rear deck cuts trunk volume and rear-seat legroom—a concession to styling. Most owners opted for 350-c.i.d. V8 and praised its miserliness with gas. Cutlass S spans same wheelbase as downsized 1977 Delta 88.

Oldsmobile surprised even itself by making the Cutlass 1976's best-selling single model. The 1977 model is little changed from '76 and the Cutlass phenomenon is expected to continue.

Why Cutlass? What's so great about this car? For the answer, we went to the owners of 1976 models, asking them specifically what tipped the scale in favor of Cutlass. We also asked what they like best and least about their cars: how they rate such things as workmanship, dealer service, reliability, handling and comfort.

The primary sales appeal turned out to be —not surprisingly—**styling**. Raves a New York teamster boss: "I like the sleek lines of the Cutlass, which make it look like a sports car while having the comfort of a luxury car."

Styling still accounts for more car sales in this country than any other factor.

An Illinois stock clerk echoes: "Its styling is excellent; makes me feel good to just sit in it and have people stare at me."

"I've always liked Olds," agrees a New York highway worker, "and the '76 model is beautiful. Too, **Oldses don't rust** as fast as other makes of cars." And an Illinois mathematician: "I looked at all the 1976 cars and liked the Cutlass's looks best; also found it best for my needs." All told, 52.6 percent of Cutlass owners listed styling as their No. 1 reason for buying. Then fully 61.4 percent ranked styling as the outstanding and best-liked feature of the Cutlass.

Olds pioneered the use of plastic fender inner liners.

Another powerful buying incentive turned out to be riding quality. According to a Georgia military man, "I've had many compliments from passengers about my Cutlass's ride." A West Virginia engineer: "Quiet, smooth ride; I'm not tired after long trips." An Indiana computer programmer: "This Cutlass rides very smoothly and is practically noiseless at all speeds."

Ride and handling, however, sometimes work against each other. Several of the owners mentioned that the Cutlass tends to feel "jiggly" on rough roads. Comments a Florida marine biologist: "Comfortable, quiet ride on smooth surfaces and interstates, but slightly difficult to control on gravel or washboard roads."

Besides high-speed cornering, owners like the Cutlass's ease of handling in traffic and in parking spots.

Even so, owners **praised handling** in general. "Nice ride," says an Arizona plumber, "and my Cutlass Salon with the extra suspension doesn't wallow around corners like most cars in this class." A South Carolina salesman notes that even without the optional heavy-duty suspension, "It doesn't sway in the curves and is a solid, sound automobile."

When we asked Cutlass owners to list specifically what they like best about their cars, we got—among others—the following replies.

"Drives like a dream. The Brougham seats are far superior in comfort to any others I've sat on. Really good detailing."—California housewife. A Texas farmer: "Great handling in heavy traffic; can see well out of car; good gas mileage."

A Colorado auto mechanic: "Quiet, smooth, good acceleration, good mileage, classic looks, handles well, solid car, good visibility." A Michigan cashier: "Makes me feel like I'm driving a much more expensive car." "Five-speed overdrive transmission is a dream!"—Montana student. "Cruise control makes long trips a pleasure."—Illinois consultant.

On the minus side, here are some listings of specific dislikes.

"It would be nice," writes a Michigan technician, "if the price could be lower." It's not real high, but I'd like it less expensive."

The rubber workers' strike in Akron had a lot of 1976 owners waiting for spares.

"I had a flat tire. **No spare.** A friend helped me out. Still no spare. It's been four months." —Michigan department manager. An Illinois machinist: "Rear legroom could be improved, and so could trunk space." And a Wisconsin beautician notes: "Cars should be inspected better at the factory. My time is just as valuable as the men who make the cars."

You have to realize that the short rear deck and long hood give the Cutlass its swoopy styling.

Comfort elicited praise in general, but 41.5 percent of the owners we surveyed rated the back seat *fair* to *poor*. In the same breath, they mentioned that there ought to be **more trunk space**. A Georgia sales manager made this observation: "There's not enough legroom in the back seat of this car, but I bought it for only two or three people to ride in at a time."

We asked Cutlass owners what changes

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Summary of 1976 Oldsmobile Cutlass Owners Reports*

Total Miles Driven 940,928

Average miles per gallon:
- 260-c.i.d. V8
  - In town (EPA, 16 automatic) 15.5
  - Long trips (EPA, 22 automatic) 19.8
- 350-c.i.d. V8
  - In town (EPA, 15 automatic) 14.5
  - Long trips (EPA, 22 automatic) 18.4

Series:
- Cutlass S 13.5%
- Cutlass Supreme 51.4
- Cutlass Salon 12.5
- Cutlass Supreme Brougham 21.2
- Cutlass Station Wagon 1.4

Engines:
- 250-c.i.d. Six 0.5%
- 260-c.i.d. V8 12.0
- 350-c.i.d. V8 85.1
- 455-c.i.d. V8 2.4

Transmissions:
- Automatic 95.6%
- Five-speed manual 2.4
- Three-speed manual 1.9

Why did you choose Cutlass?
- Styling 52.6%
- Past experience 25.4
- Riding qualities 10.0
- Reliability 9.6
- Comfort 8.6

Specific likes:
- Styling 61.4%
- Riding qualities 42.1
- Handling 36.0
- Comfort 35.5
- Economy 23.9

Specific dislikes:
- Hasty workmanship 10.9%
- Not enough trunk space 8.9
- Rattles 7.3
- Too little rear legroom 6.3

What changes would you like?
- More trunk space 13.3%
- More rear legroom 8.3
- Reshape front seats 5.5
- Exterior styling details 5.0

Dealer service opinion:
- Excellent 21.3%
- Good 36.0
- Average 19.1
- Fair 12.4
- Poor 11.2

Workmanship opinion:
- Excellent 31.8%
- Good 42.7
- Average 15.6
- Fair 6.6
- Poor 3.3

Comfort opinion (front seats):
- Excellent 53.1%
- Very good 32.7
- Good 11.8
- Fair 2.4
- Poor 0.0

Comfort opinion (rear seats):
- Excellent 9.7%
- Very Good 21.0
- Good 27.8
- Fair 21.0
- Poor 20.5

Number of vehicles owned:
- Cutlass only 39.6%
- Two cars 46.2
- Three cars 8.5
- Four cars 4.7
- Five or more cars 0.9

Makes of other cars owned:
- Oldsmobile 31.3%
- Chevrolet 22.7
- Pontiac 10.9
- Ford 10.2
- Volkswagen 7.8

Had any mechanical trouble?
- No 61.2%
- Yes 38.8

What type of trouble?
- Carburetor 24.7%
- Transmission 19.8
- Electrical 16.0

Did you fix it yourself?
- No 95.1%
- Yes 4.9

Dealer repairs satisfactory?
- Yes 58.6%
- No 41.4

Age distribution of owners:
- 15-29 years 34.8%
- 30-49 years 37.7
- 50-plus 27.5

Would you buy another Cutlass?
- Yes 88.8%
- No 11.2

*Percentages might not equal 100% due to rounding or insufficient data.

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BOATING '77

11 that

More metal-flakes for the finish and more muscle for the engine, plus better safety procedures and performance standards are featured in this year's new boats

by Bill McKeown BOATING EDITOR

New designs, performance, construction materials, styling, outfitting and powering make up the hot news in pleasure boats this year.

Prices and values have both gone up. Below the waterline, improved designs are making for smoother riding. Refinements aboard provide more comfort and convenience.

Fiberglass is the league leader for midsize mass-production boats. Aluminum is a favorite for skiffs and rental rigs that must stand up to considerable hard treatment. ABS and other plastics have proved very successful when used by companies that can handle the necessary production methods.

Wood still is the choice for many custom-built craft, and is well-suited for the kit and backyard builder, or any boatman adding built-in compartments.

For adventure

Rough-water runs are becoming a popular new sport and a number of new craft for white water are the result. Best for bouncing a group through rocky rapids are the chubby inflatables. These must be made of rugged material to resist abrasion and punctures; inexpensive pool-toy-type vinyl won't do—and is dangerous. A good inflatable boat costs as much as one that is rigidly built, but is often more versatile.

Fiberglass kayaks and canoes of aluminum and various plastics are surf-riding and sluicing down many mountain streams. Shown here is one of three new models from Coleman, made of a plastic called Ram-X and reported to have superior abrasion resistance. They come in 13, 15 and 17-foot lengths.

For sailors

Sailcraft are getting longer without getting wider. Chrysler's new Herreshoff 26 sticks with the 8-foot beam that makes trailering possible without a special permit; it's built in both keel-centerboard and fixed-keel models. Other sailboat builders are also inching up past the mid-20s in overall length. Even sleek catamarans, like the Stiletto we selected from Force Engineering in Sarasota, Fla., has a broad 14-foot beam to support its 27-foot length, but can compress in width to ½ inch under 8 feet with a clever midship telescoping arrangement for trailering.

Chrysler's new 26 is designed to be trailered, has 6-foot headroom, sleeps six in vee berths forward, two side berths and a double under the cockpit.

For fishermen

Anything from an inner tube up to an ocean-going yacht can be the right size for an ardent angler, but some are better than others for boating fish. This year the bass boat is back with more styling and accessories, upholstery inside and metal-flake finish outside. One trend is toward fishing craft slick enough to look like bow-rider runabouts with open foredecks, fancy enough for family boating with the pedestal fishing chairs lifted out, and fast enough for water skiing.

For fishermen who insist on over-powering their craft, there are now models that can take the big 175 and 200-hp outboards or mount big-muscle sterndrive inboards. Excessive speed is now safer, though no more sensible, for fishermen racing out to a favorite lunker hole.

Offshore models continue to offer healthy high freeboard to keep the waves out, plus deep-V hull design to ride over them more smoothly. A center console for steering and engine controls allows anglers to move around the edge of the boat while fighting fish. Wellcraft and Grady-White have a passageway around a central cabin for the same purpose.

Except for outriggers and down-riggers, gunnels are kept clear so the fisherman will not foul his line while fighting a big one. New this year is the appearance of small

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Canoes, new from Coleman (the camping gear manufacturer), are of Ram-X high-density polyethylene and come in 13, 15 and 17-foot lengths.

are tops afloat

For offshore, this Cobia cuddy-cabin fisherman mounts a small tuna tower and can handle a 200-hp Johnson motor.

Runabout performance and bowrider accommodations with open foredeck are built into yellow Steury (top) powered with 35 Evinrude outboard.

Newest from Glastron, the SSV 177 with sterndrive or outboard power introduces a constant-section vee hull for smooth yet stable running.

Hammond V-1950 El Dorado Elite at left, one of six Hammond models, comes with luxury accessories, silver or gold finish and hidden fold-down soft top.

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BOATING '77

Stilleto, a trailerable 27-foot catamaran that claims speeds of over 22 mph, has double berth in each hull, streamlined cockpit canopy, bracket for 10-hp outboard.

tuna tower constructions on more 20-foot-and-up offshore fishermen. Some serve for spotting fish at a distance while others are rigged with remote controls and provide an elevated helm position for steering.

For family boating

The versatile runabout is still the choice for day boating, casual fishing, deep-water swimming and water skiing. New models for the coming season make these activities safer, more comfortable and more successful.

Many hulls now offer upright flotation that keeps a hull full of water afloat and upright as well so that passengers may be able to stay aboard and bail it out. More rugged construction, higher sides and added buoyancy also allow capacity for more people and gear in the boat and more power hung on the transom to push it.

Bottom designs that have been popular—deep-V (seakindly underway, tippy at rest) and flatter bottom (stable at rest, but a tendency to pound underway)—are now being combined by some builders. Glastron is introducing a new SSV hull that is reported to provide the smooth, softer ride of a deep-V and better stability at all speeds.

Many companies are adding transom platforms to make boarding from the water simpler and safer. Kevlar 49, which is a stronger, lighter but more expensive construction material, is being experimented with.

Refinements such as a windshield section that is lowered electrically into the deck is available from Cobalt Boats. Camper tops are turning pontoon craft and runabouts into cruisers. For a price, this year's skipper should find his ideal dreamboat. ★★★

Bowrider with bonus built-ins, Rally 190SS (left and above) from Mirro Marine Div. has side seats that convert to bunks, rear seat with wet bar under, convertible and canvas top hidden under rear upholstery.

Hydro Stream Vamp from Pipkorn Industries combines ski-boat look (at top) with open foredeck. It's rated for 140 hp and tops 43 mph when powered with 85 Merc shown.

Checkmate runabout (above), is another design combining hot ski-boat look with added seating space forward of the windshield. Power is new Evinrude 140.

Padded and posh, the MFG Gypsy Star 17 wraps the bowrider banquette seat in upholstery (left), has sunlounger seats in cockpit, swim ladder next to Merc 1/0.

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BOATING '77

Best new gear for skippers

Add-ons that add the most to boats this year range from simple tarnishproof plastic cleats to pocket electronic calculators that can be programmed to do the arithmetic for celestial navigation. The SR-52 from Texas Instruments uses magnetic cards for 39 navigational programs and can help tell you where you are for about $350. For converting nautical miles to land miles and for other preprogrammed conversions, an $80 Sharp Electronics EL-8300 will supply answers.

An example of a simple and much less expensive improvement is a nut and bolt from Mercury for mounting larger bolt-on outboards. The nut is rounded so that a special keyed socket is necessary to tighten or remove it—an excellent way to discourage a thief using an ordinary wrench. The stainless-steel bolts come in pairs and are called the Lock-Rite Security System.

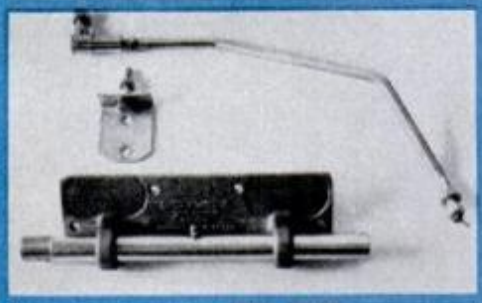
Sterndrive users also have a couple new accessories available. Stern Step, from Raymac Industries, Homestead, Fla., provides permanently mounted boarding ladder steps bolted on top of the drive for easy reboarding (with the engine turned off). A small outboard motor mounting bracket can also be mounted on an outdrive for added trolling or auxiliary power. It's by P&D Enterprise, LaPorte, Ind.

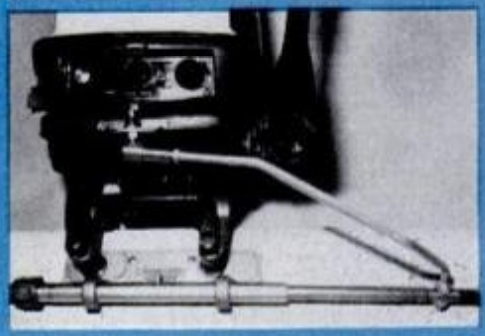
A system that is designed to scare away barnacles by mounting sound transmitters inside the hull is called Aqua Sonic Hull Tender. It comes from Aqua Sonic, San Jose, Calif., and reports are that buzzing or even rock music can be used, depending probably on what your local barnacles dislike the most. For sounds to warn of approaching bad weather, portable Storm Alarm Weatheralert radios can be set to be triggered by National Weather Service transmitters.—*Bill McKeown*

Clinometer/compass for binnacle or deck mounting tells where and at what angle: Goldberg's.

Propeller protector guard kit from Evinrude and Johnson dealers installs on outboards of 5½ to 25 hp.

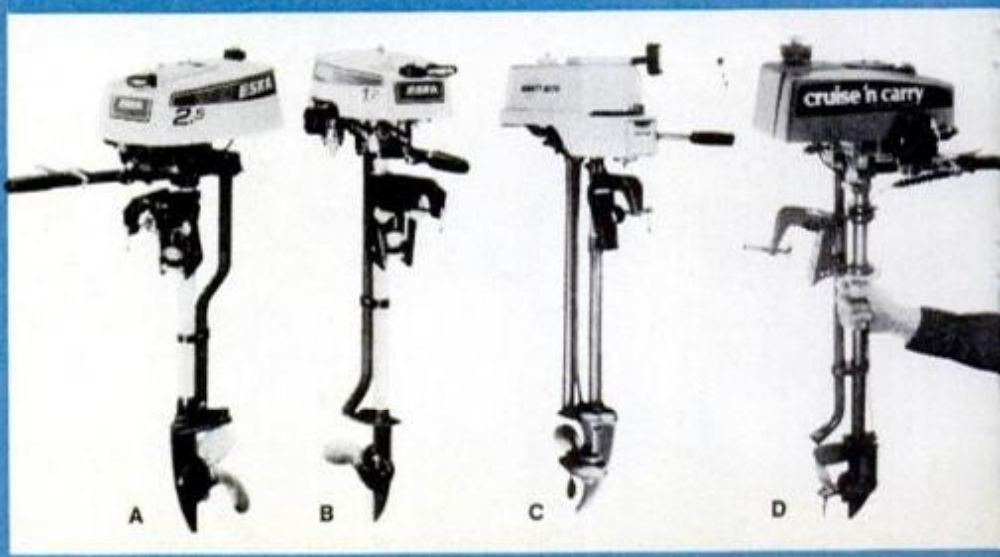
Less noise and more safety are claims for 3M Liquid Carpet coating that has sound-dampening and better traction features when painted in boats, canoes.





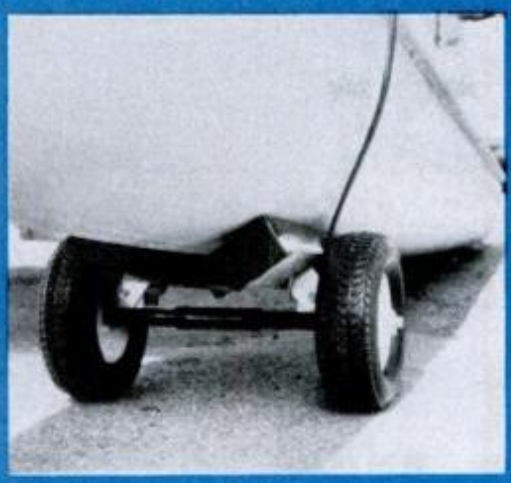
Remote steering for small outboards is possible with a mechanical steering attachment kit from Westwind Products, Denver. Disconnect when removing the motor is quick, and motor clamps hold bracket transom plate in place.

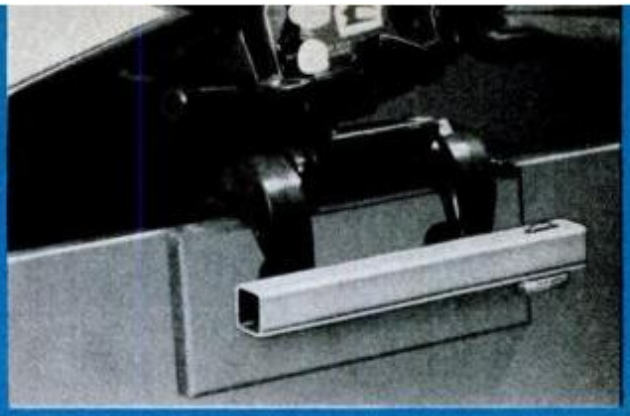
New mini-outboards offer extra push at less weight. Eska has eight gas models and two electrics, including 2.5 (A) and 1.2 (B) hp. Mighty Mite II (C) has 1.7 hp at 17½ pounds. Cruise 'n Carry (D) by HMC, Torrance, Calif., is 1.7 hp, 12 pounds.



Bilge pump designed for reliable muscle power mounts horizontally or vertically; OMC Parts.

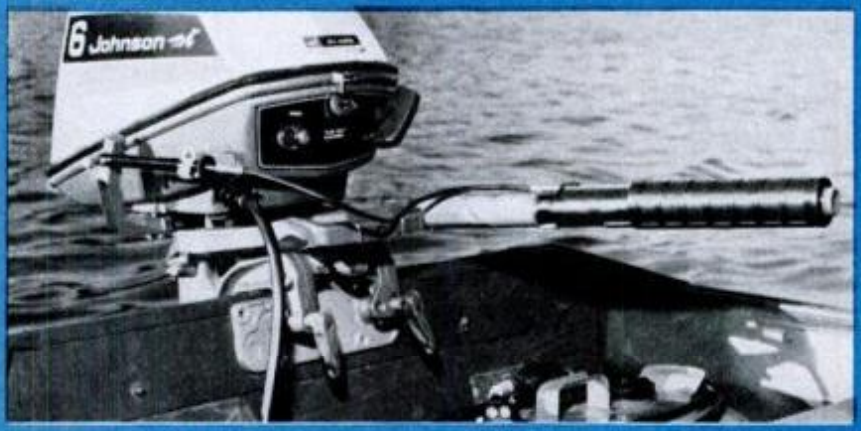
Kat Kaddy, one under each hull, can roll a 300-pound catamaran to launching site and into the water. Units are available from Gagne Associates.

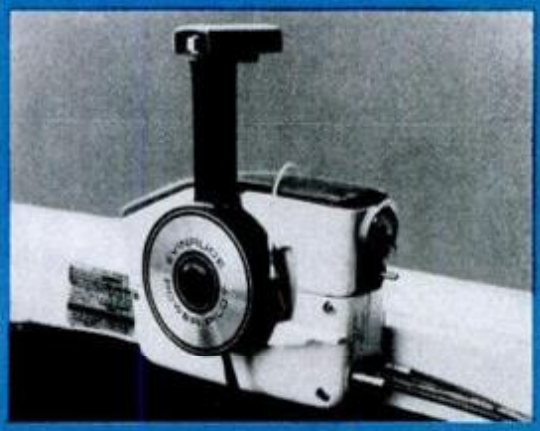




Outboard Motor Lock, made by the Master Lock Co., Milwaukee, slides over clamp handles of most motors and a recessed padlock prevents theft of your motor.

Tilt control in the palm of the hand is now available with a trim switch on the throttle of Johnsons and Evinrudes.





Remote reach is provided with extended grip that gives throttle and push-pull shift; by OMC Parts.

Autopilot convenience using saturable core compass with no moving parts, from Wesmar is set at helm or steered by hand control.

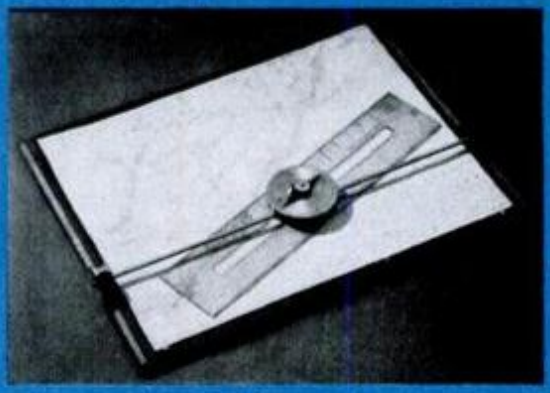
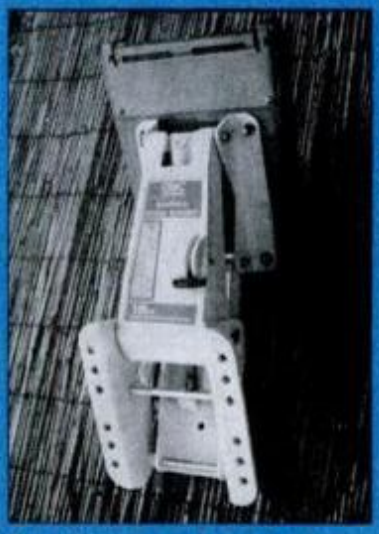


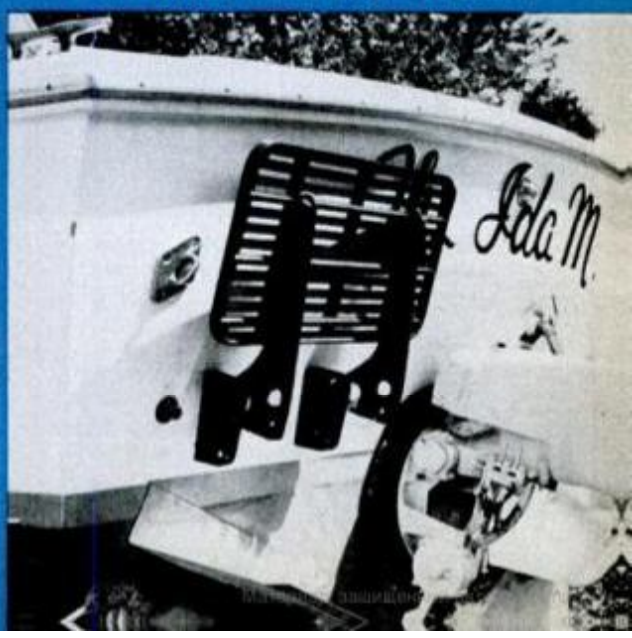
Chart reading in luxury is provided with the Ritchie portable chart table plotter that holds chart in place in cockpit or cabin, without any parallel rules or dividers necessary, to plot a course and navigate.

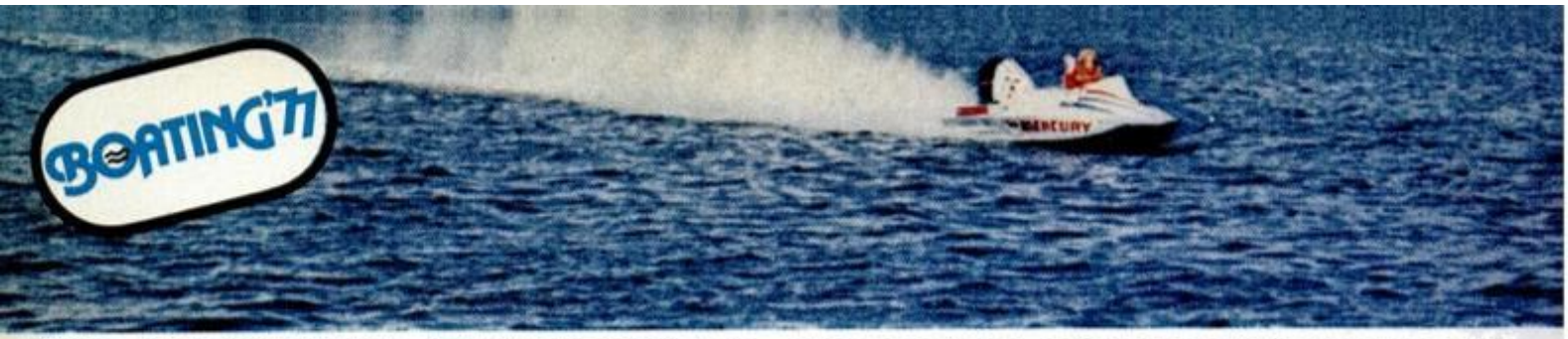
Trip-anchor, by Viking Products of Mercury Marine, has slide on shank that allows fouled anchor to be recoved backward.



An outboard can be added to almost any hull with the OMC Auxiliary Motor Bracket using spring loading to tilt up when motor is not in use.

A transom platform for smaller boats, the Folding Transom Deck by Bay Pattern Works is 13x24 inches, weighs 12 pounds.





"You're hitting about 120 miles an hour," my helmet radio announced after I'd reported my rpm reading to the chase boat. "Now let's see if you can give us a wave with one hand and come past close enough for a picture." I was busy noting trim angle, rpm readings, tilt and radio mike buttons on the steering wheel, but got up my courage for an instant—and waved.

How to take the world's outboard championship

PM's boating editor takes a 120-mph racing lesson from Team Mercury ace Reggie Fountain, world's fastest outboarder.

PM photos: Jim Schuenke

by Bill McKeown
BOATING EDITOR

"Suppose a *Popular Mechanics* reader wants your title—what's the secret?" I asked Reggie Fountain. "What would it take to beat you?"

Reginald Fountain Jr. of Tarboro, N. C., is the world titleholder of the Union of International Motorboating Class OZ—the test that allows as much power as you can get from an outboard motor. You race against the world's best drivers steering the world's fastest boats in the world's biggest league.

There are millions of outboard owners—over 7,649,000 in the United States alone—and almost every one would like to be the fastest. Last summer at St. Louis, Reg-

World Unlimited champion Reggie Fountain stands on deck of his 76 to check me out on starting sequence. At right, he hangs her high with trim cranked to plane on the edge with minimum wetted bottom surface for maximum speed. Today's power allows tunnel hulls to be designed with slightly less lift and more stability.

gie finished first in the OZ championship driving the souped-up XS Hi-Performance version of the Mercury Black Max 122-cu.-in. V6 outboard, pushing a Molinari tunnel hull.

"But how did you do it? How could our readers get 100-plus miles per hour out of their rigs if they wanted to try?" In an exclusive session for PM, Reggie not only explained—he even showed me. So here's the inside story.

Learning how

Starting early isn't everything, but it helps. Reggie got his first fast boat at 12 and began racing at 14. Summers were a chance to continue boat racing on the Pamlico River and Sound at Washington, N. C., but fall meant football halfback on the Tarboro High School team, and skeet championships while he was getting business and law degrees at the University of North Carolina. Once established in his own insurance business, however, Fountain bought the best twin-outboard tunnel rig he could find.

Soon Reggie was winning national races and joined the Glastron factory racing team in 1971. When Glastron gave up closed-course competition, Reg went back to winning as an independent until the Mercury factory team asked him to join. Now at 36 and still a winning member of that team, he is down three pounds from his high school halfback weight of 145, jogs several miles a day to stay in shape, runs his business, competes in races around the world, and has set seven world records and taken eight national titles. Keeping active, he admits, may be one of the secrets.

The machinery

While you can buy all the high-performance equipment from Merc dealers or the factory and edge out the factory drivers on occasion, it's not too likely. Team Mercury does so much testing and preparation work before an event, Reggie notes, that it can lead to a world championship. Before a big race, Gary Garbrecht, Merc's director of racing and high-performance products, may duplicate the course to be run in Phoenix, Miami, Dayton, Havasu, or Paris. He'll do this at Mercury's Oshkosh, Wis., northern test center. The drivers will try every possible combination of propellers, trim and setups, and an analysis will be made of what the competition is likely to run as well. If the decision is that it will take 130 mph to win, the rigs will be tuned to accomplish it.

At a recent event where exotic fuels were allowed, Garbrecht remembers he saw the competition accelerate out of turns with high roostertails of spray and reckless bursts of speed. His analysis: They were injecting quick jolts of laughing gas (nitrous oxide) into a nitromethanol fuel mix. The extra boost was a trade-off against engine life. Radio instructions went out to the Merc team to push the opposition, and the strategy worked as the competition motors blew before they could complete the race.

Radio is just one refinement that helps make today's winner. First citizen band and then special mobile units used by Indianapolis drivers were tested but did not give Mercury the reliable clarity desired. Finally, special frequencies and equipment were selected and thousands of dollars poured into this project. The result: a transceiver in each team boat, a microphone and earphone in each driver's helmet, and a rig ashore in the control van to let the race manager tell drivers when a pit stop is coming up, discuss threatening water conditions or overtaking boats, learn in advance of malfunction sounds and symptoms that may require a stop, and warn of accidents or obstructions ahead. Time and expense were approved by Merc president Jack Reichert and engineering vice president Charley Alexander because this gives what they demand of the racing program: success and safety.

The test

Because I had checked out in fast equipment before, Reggie let me try out his world-record boat to feel what speed over water can be like today. Team Mercury goes first class—an elegant tractor trailer with machine shop forward and ramp aft to roll out one or two raceboats aboard arrived at Whichard's Marina with No. 76, Fountain's *Spirit of '76*, for launching on Pamlico Sound near Tarboro.

Reggie, Garbrecht and crew chief Jim Schuenke preflighted the craft carefully and then eased Reg into the water and headed him out, ready for fire-up. With a throaty roar and spray of propwash, 76 aimed offshore and we followed in Reg's Grady-White chase boat while talking to him with our walkie-talkie. Transmission was crisp as he opened up a long roostertail and pulled away from a photo plane overhead.

Back at the ramp, I buckled into my Gentex jacket, reviewed starting sequence with Reggie, and then flicked on boost and starter. Spray stung my face as I picked up speed, and I dropped the face shield and accelerated with less porpoising in the 40 to 80 mph range than I recalled in other tunnels. The boat mounts no speedometer—you're racing against competition, not dashboard gauges, Garbrecht astutely feels—and the one dial on the steering wheel is the tachometer. I held

(Please turn to page 128)

Speed seat in the cockpit (below) faces steering wheel with buttons, left and right, to trim out engine. Trimming in is controlled by a switch on left footrest, while under right foot is throttle. Center steering button opens helmet radio mike. Center dial on wheel is tachometer, and no speedometer is included to distract driver. Cord on seat is emergency kill lanyard to shut off engine if driver is thrown out of the boat. Fountain (top right) wears a protective plastic vest that fits under standard parachute-strapped life jacket like Gentex I'm buckling on. Special Team Mercury van, (lower right) holds machine shop plus one or two racing hulls that are off-loaded on trailer's down ramp.

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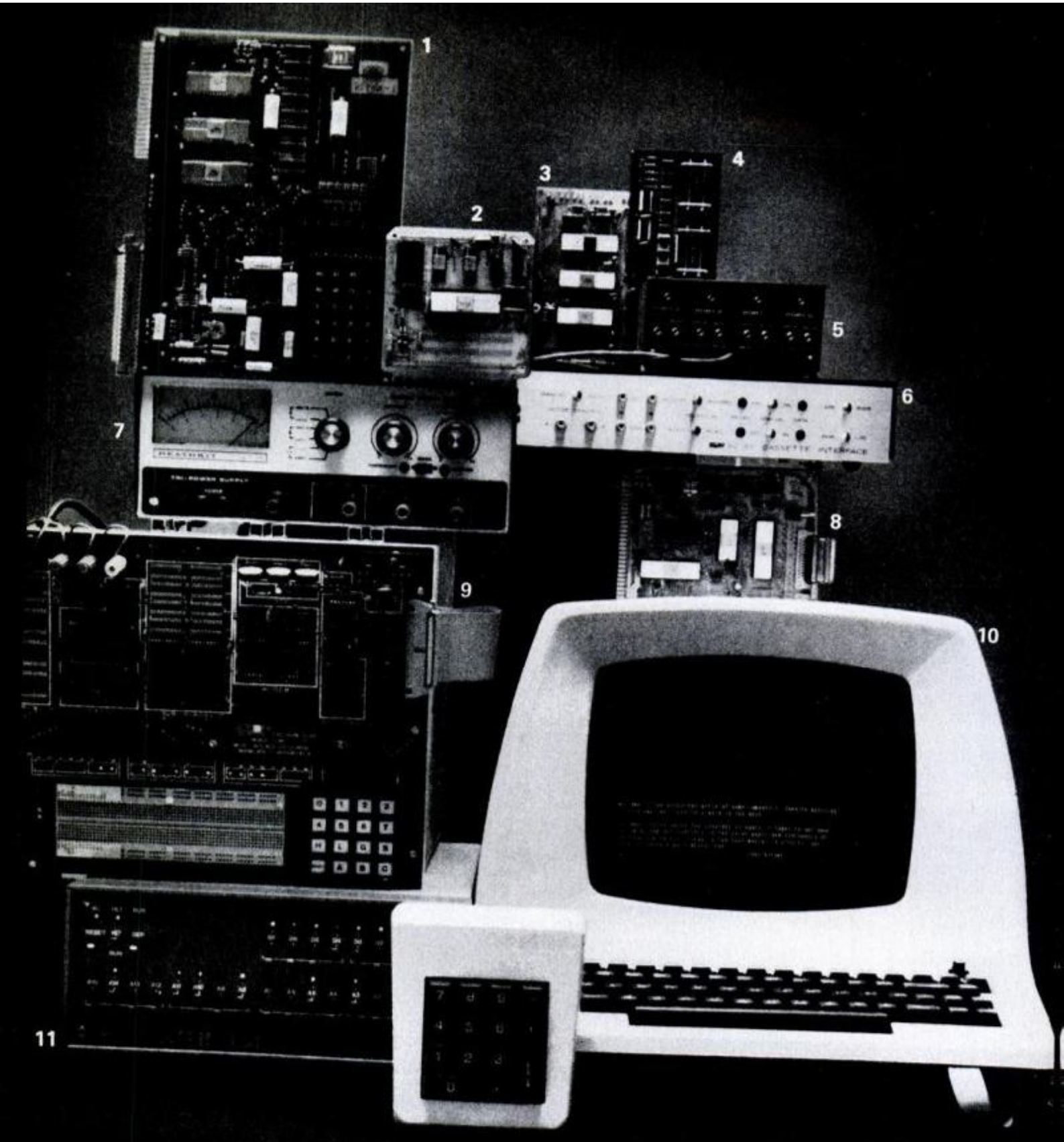

Computer kits vary in size and nature. Shown here are: 1. KIM-1 computer with keyboard and display; 2. National Semiconductor SC/MP computer board; 3. Jolt computer board; 4. Oliver OP-80A tape reader; 5. Ro-Che controller for four cassette recorders; 6. Southwest Technical Products AC-30 cassette interface; 7. Heathkit IP-2718 tri-voltage power supply; 8. Intel SDK-80 computer board; 9. E&L Mini-Mic computer; 10. Lear-Siegler ADM-3a terminal with numerical keypad accessory; 11. MITS Altair 680 computer.

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Home computer kits: The hottest new angle in America's newest hobby

A rundown on 16 kits, plus a report on building one.

by Ivan Berger ELECTRONICS EDITOR

The grin on my face, and the bags beneath my eyes had everyone thinking I'd been on a long round of late-night parties. But it was a six-week computer binge instead.

During those six weeks, I lost a lot of sleep, used a lot of solder, and totally changed my ideas about what home computer systems are like—and what they're good for.

They're not good just for working with numbers. Computers can do almost anything—provided you can figure out or find the programs that tell the computer how to do it.

For example, a computer can not only keep your address and telephone list up-to-date and alphabetical, but it can search through that list to identify the numbers that showed up on your long-distance telephone bill. It can keep track of who sent you Christmas cards for the last three years, and who you sent yours to.

Give it the mileage and gallons for every tank of gas you've fed your car, and it can tell you what mileage you got from the last tankful, what your mileage has been for the last thousand miles and how well that compares with what you got last year.

Sit an AM radio down next to it, and the computer can play tunes in pulses that the radio picks up.

Use it to reconcile your checkbook with your statement, and the computer can also tell you which checks haven't cleared, find when the check for a disputed bill did clear, and summarize deductible items.

Add some accessories, and it can draw pictures on a TV screen—even animated ones—in color. Other accessories let it keep track of the time and date (shifting automatically to and from daylight saving), accept and answer telephoned commands, even turn your furnace on and off.

So far, all my system's done is play games, because the programs I need for those are readily available. And I've already written some simple game programs myself.

As I learn more about programming (it's challenging, but not backbreaking to learn), I'll write my gas-mileage program, then my checkbook reconciler, then a full bookkeeping program—but not in time for this year's taxes. Shucks.

It's more fun and cheaper to build a kit than to buy a completed computer.

It's easier to learn programming when you have a computer at hand to test your programs as you write them, and show you your mistakes. But first you need to pick your system, because programs written for one computer won't necessarily run on one of a different type. Programs written in BASIC or other "high-level languages" (see glossary, page 162) are an exception: They can be modified to run on other computers which talk that language.

So the hardware of the system must come before the "software"—the programs. And as you can see from our photos, there's a staggering array of hardware from which to choose.

Making it a system

The computer itself is just part of a system—the part that handles all the logical manipulations and stores the data and the programs that tell it what manipulations are required. At a minimum, you'll also need a "terminal" with a typewriter-like keyboard that lets you communicate with the computer, and a

PM builds 16 kits and semikits that can:

- Monitor furnace fuel consumption
- Do family bookkeeping
- Do homework
- Check long-distance calls
- Keep a kitchen inventory
- Play games
- Balance your checkbook
- Design circuits
- Keep family nutrition records
- Index your record collection
- Keep your Christmas card list
- Check your gas mileage

And with a few more accessories, a computer can:

- Answer your telephone
- Guard your house
- Draw pictures
- Keep tax records
- Type your letters
- Keep your social calendar

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TV screen or printer which shows what you've fed to the computer and how it answered you.

The memory inside a computer is limited (though you can add more, within limits), and it forgets everything when you turn the power off. So it's very handy to have a "bulk storage" device which can hold programs you're not using and feed them back into the computer when you need them again. It's also necessary to have a bit of Read-Only Memory (ROM) that doesn't go blank when the power is off. This bit holds the program that tells the computer how to start itself up again.

Computers are dumb

That program, called a "monitor" is most important. Computers don't know *anything* unless you tell them first: Not just when to come in from the rain, but also how. When you first turn a computer on, before you can run any useful program, you have to retrain it from scratch to accept a program from your terminal. That's a long, boring process, and one tiny error can wipe out all your work and force you to start over. The monitor—a "wake up and eat your program!" program—does it for you.

Bare boards

The computers themselves come in a wide range of forms and prices. The starkest are kits such as Intel's SDK-80 ($350), Microcomputer Associate's JOLT ($159), and National Semiconductor's $99 SC/MP—so small its parts come bubble-packed to one page of its loose-leaf manual.

These are bare boards, complete with computing circuitry, some memory, a monitor and an interface circuit for connection to a terminal, but without cabinets, built-in input or output devices, or the low-voltage d.c. power supplies they need. (JOLT does, however, offer a power supply for $99, and Heath's $80 IP-2718 will power almost any of these boards.)

MOS Technology's KIM-1 is a step up. Not actually a kit (though at $245 it's priced like one) it, too, needs a power supply. But it does have a calculator-like keyboard and display built in for input and output.

On second glance, though, you'll notice that the digits on the keyboard don't just go up to 9—they continue on through letters A to F. That's because the programs written for KIM-1, (and most other computers) are not written in decimal numbers but in hexadecimal ones

(Please turn to page 162)

I build my own home computer from a kit

by Anthony Curtis

The Altair 680 kit comes with 518 parts (left) that make a base computer (right) when they are all connected and soldered. Kit has easy step-by-step instructions.

The easy way to get your feet wet in hobby computers is to build a microprocessor from a kit, and that's just what I did. I got the $466 Altair 680 from MITS, one of the oldest manufacturers in the brand-new home-computer field. Now, some 518 integrated circuits, capacitors, resistors, switches, LEDs, transformers and what-have-you later, you can take it from me: The Altair 680 kit is easy to build.

I had wired Heathkits and other small electronics gadgets before so I had a little experience. It took me a total of 20 hours spread over two days to finish the computer. If you have not wired an electronic kit before, it might take you one to two weeks as you go slowly through MITS' step-by-step instructions.

The Altair 680 is tiny compared with some microprocessors on the market, yet it will house a memory as big as most and do just about anything others might offer. It is a complete device around which you can build a system to run anything you can imagine at your house plus several chores at the neighbor's next door.

The 680 is, however, only the heart of a usable system. You also need a teletypewriter or video-display terminal to allow you to give information and instructions to your computer and permit it to talk back to you.

When your 680 kit comes in the mail, you'll find two fiberglass printed-circuit boards with holes for parts already drilled. The boards have a hefty feel and a commercial-grade look. Copper is plated on both sides and holes are plated through so you only have to solder one side, a mark of quality design. Each board has parts locations clearly marked in silk-screened symbols.

Also in the mailing carton will be three fat plastic bags of small parts, a 2-inch-thick ring binder of instructions, and a solid blue-and-gray box to house the completed computer. Everything counted out just right; no parts were lost in shipping.

Few tools needed

The only tools you need to build this kit are needle-nose pliers, diagonal cutters, standard-blade screwdriver, a Phillips screwdriver and a soldering gun of 25 to 30 watts. I recommend the Ungar 776 with tip number 7155. Similar good irons will do as well.

MITS' assembly instructions are as easy to understand as those provided by Heath with its famous kits. Pictorial diagrams show you which part to mount next and where to mount it. There is a full explanation of how to solder to the printed circuit boards, and mechanical mounting instructions are good. Whether you are a beginner or not, take it slow and easy. There are some dangerous pitfalls to be avoided: Don't use irons of more than 25-30 watts. Higher-power irons or guns will lift the copper "lands" right off the boards and burn out delicate parts.

Be extra careful to heat an individual connection only long enough to get the minimum amount of solder to flow around it. Circuit lines printed

(Please turn to page 163)

Fit out for making money

by Hank Lake

Ever think of lowering the coil of your metal detector down into the water on a long extension cord so you can look for sunken treasure? As soon as the idea occurred to me two years ago I looked around for an old boat and bought her off-season for $150.

She was a fine old wooden 23-foot Chris-Craft with an inboard engine. The cabin had already been removed and the boat used as an open fishing craft. In the spring I overhauled her, and changed her name from *Leaking Lena* to *Sand Pebble*.

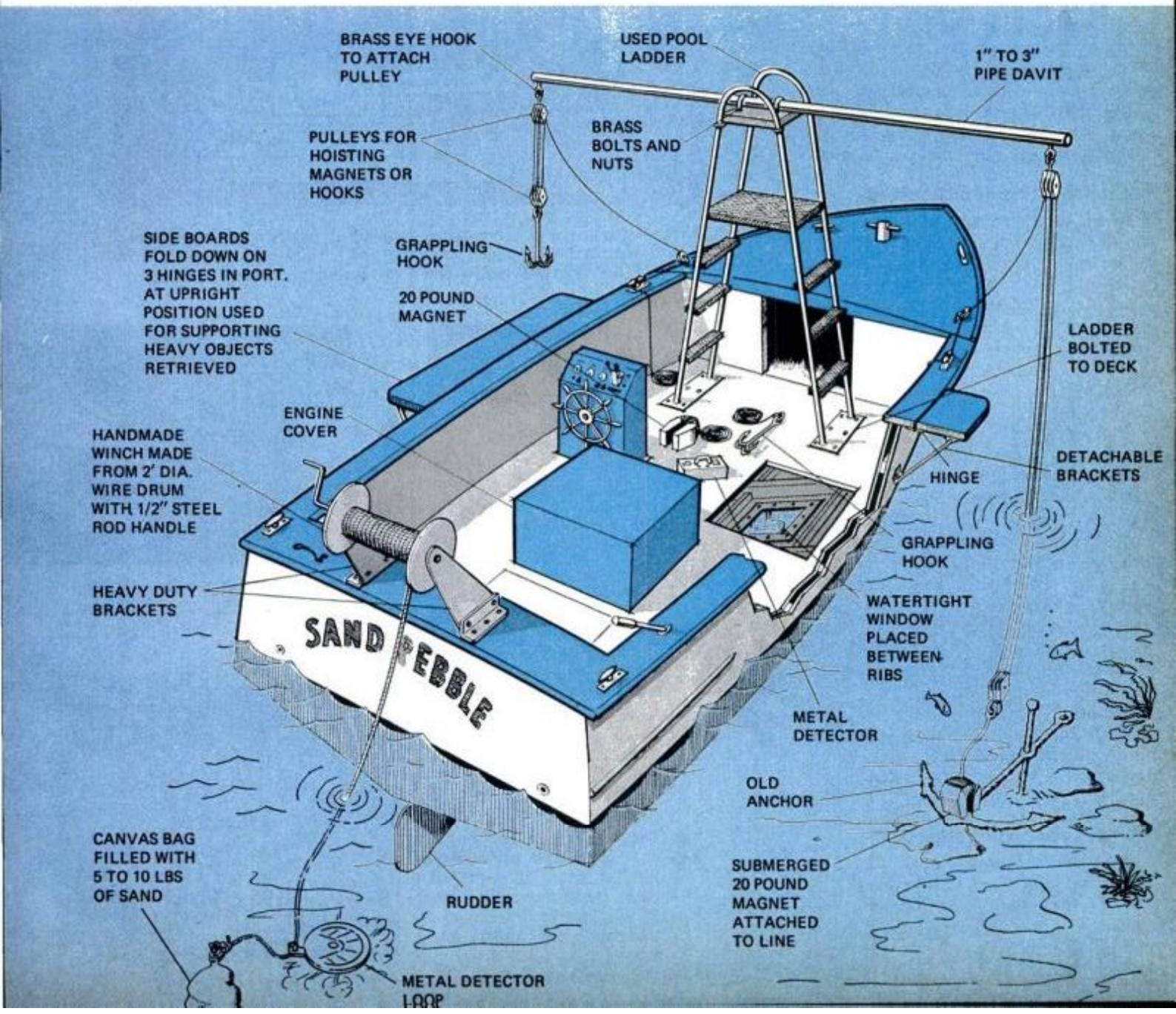
To outfit her for salvage, I bought an old pool ladder, painted it with red lead to prevent rust, and then rigged a length of two-inch pipe across the top of the ladder so the pipe would extend two feet out from each side of the boat. Connected to each end of the pipe was an Archer one-ton hoist with a 7:1 lift ratio.

I purchased two 20-pound surplus Navy magnets for $20 each and secured them to the hoists. Where the magnets would be lowered, I sewed old canvas tarp around rolls of scrap Styrofoam and fastened them in place as fenders to protect the boat sides when I was hoisting salvage.

For my White's metal detector, I mounted a wire spool rigged with a crank handle to raise and lower the detector's loop coil, wrapped in heavy plastic to protect it and weighted down with a ballast bag of 5 to 10 pounds of sand. Additional equipment included grappling hooks for snagging outboard motors, anchors and nonmagnetic bronze fittings.

Working the waters along the coast of Staten Island, N.J., and New Jersey, I would drift and check the snag-infested shallows around old piers with the magnets, using the detector off sandy beaches. So far I've raised propellers, shafts, heavy brass fittings, tool and tackle boxes with watches, coins and rings in them, ships' wheels and a great variety of fishing equipment that can be sold to marine stores and flea market dealers. An interesting source for sunken treasure is the *Descriptive List of Treasure Maps in the Library of Congress*, 45 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

My total cost for boat and equipment was $347. In just one month I earned more than that. ★★★



How to stop hesitation

Stumble, flat spots and misfiring can drive you crazy. Here's how to get the response back in your engine.

by Mort Schultz

Stumbles, flat spots and misfirings on acceleration—those are signs of hesitation. They occur when an engine doesn't respond promptly to your command to accelerate either from a stopped position or while rolling. Instead of accelerating smoothly, the engine falters—like it's pausing to catch its breath—before picking up the pace.

Many people who write *Car Clinic* complain that professional mechanics are sloughing off hesitation problems with the excuse that they're being caused by emission control equipment and nothing can be done.

Most problems easily solved

Well, most cases of hesitation are easily cured by making a minor adjustment or replacing a relatively inexpensive part. Only sometimes is a solution difficult, and that's when a particular model car has a built-in hangup. In nearly all these instances, however, manufacturers issue technical service bulletins giving repair procedures.

For example, some 1975 Ford Mavericks and Granadas, and Mercury Comets and Monarchs with 200-cu.-in. engines built between Feb. 25 and March 12, 1975, were outfitted with an incorrect exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) venturi vacuum amplifier. The improper component increases EGR flow, resulting in hesitation. The solution, given in a service bulletin, is to replace the venturi vacuum amplifier.

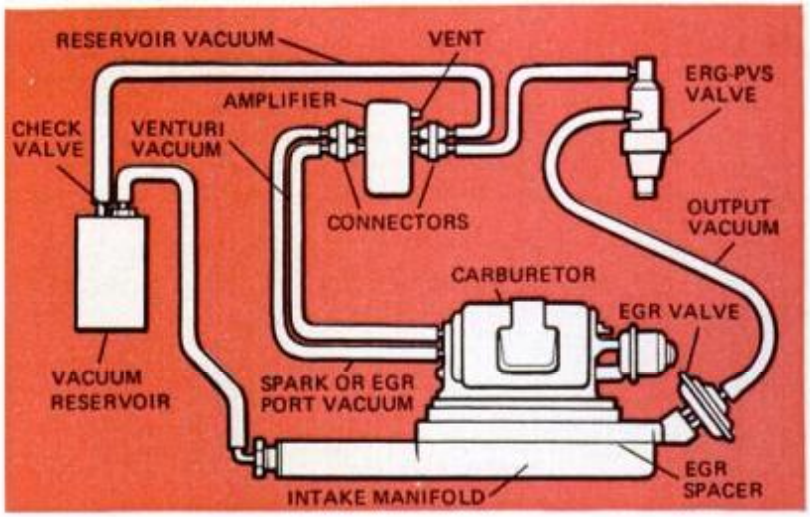
Inherent problems such as this are the hardest to solve because you and independent mechanics don't have access to service bulletin information.

Check service bulletins first

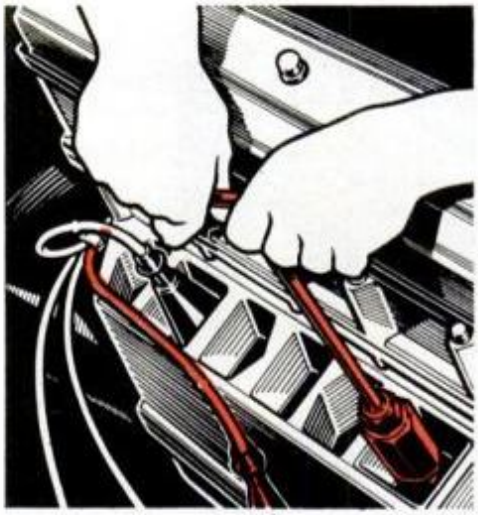
Dealer mechanics have data on hand, but not all of them consult the files as they should.

There are two ways to light a candle if you're in the dark over a hesitation problem which may have

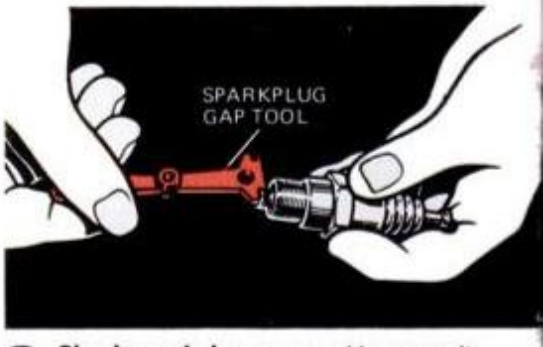
PM art: Peter Trojan



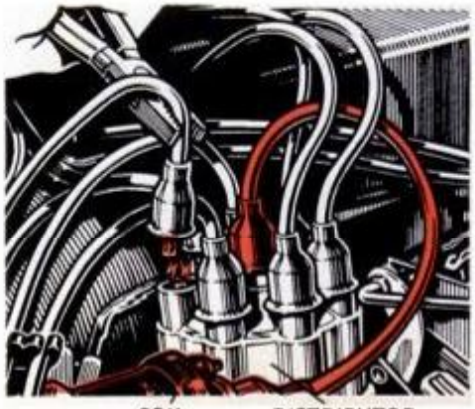
1 **First step** to solve a hesitation problem is checking manufacturer's service bulletins to see if your car has a built-in defect—some '75 Fords, for example, had wrong EGR system amplifier installed.



2 **Pull your sparkplugs** and check that the electrodes are clean, and the porcelain insulators are not cracked.



3 **Check sparkplug gap,** making sure it is set to spec with the right type of gapping tool as one shown above.



4 **Test ignition** by pulling any sparkplug cable from the distributor cap. With insulated pliers, hold the cable about ¼ in. from the terminal in the cap; you should get a strong, blue spark when you crank the engine.

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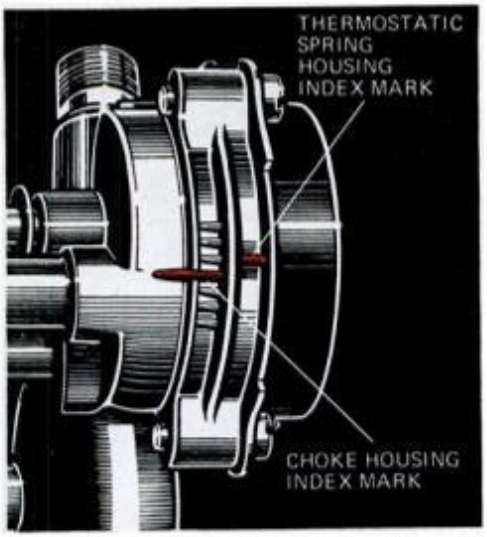
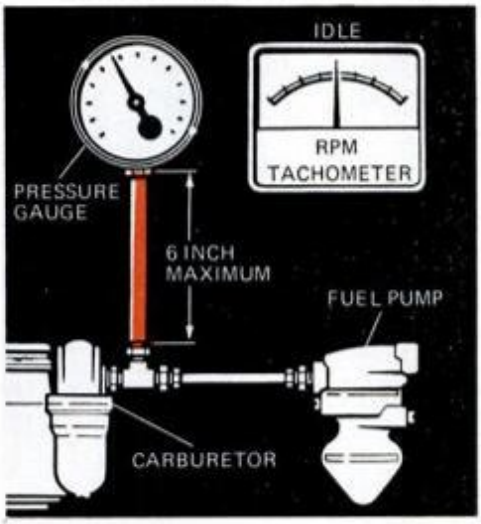
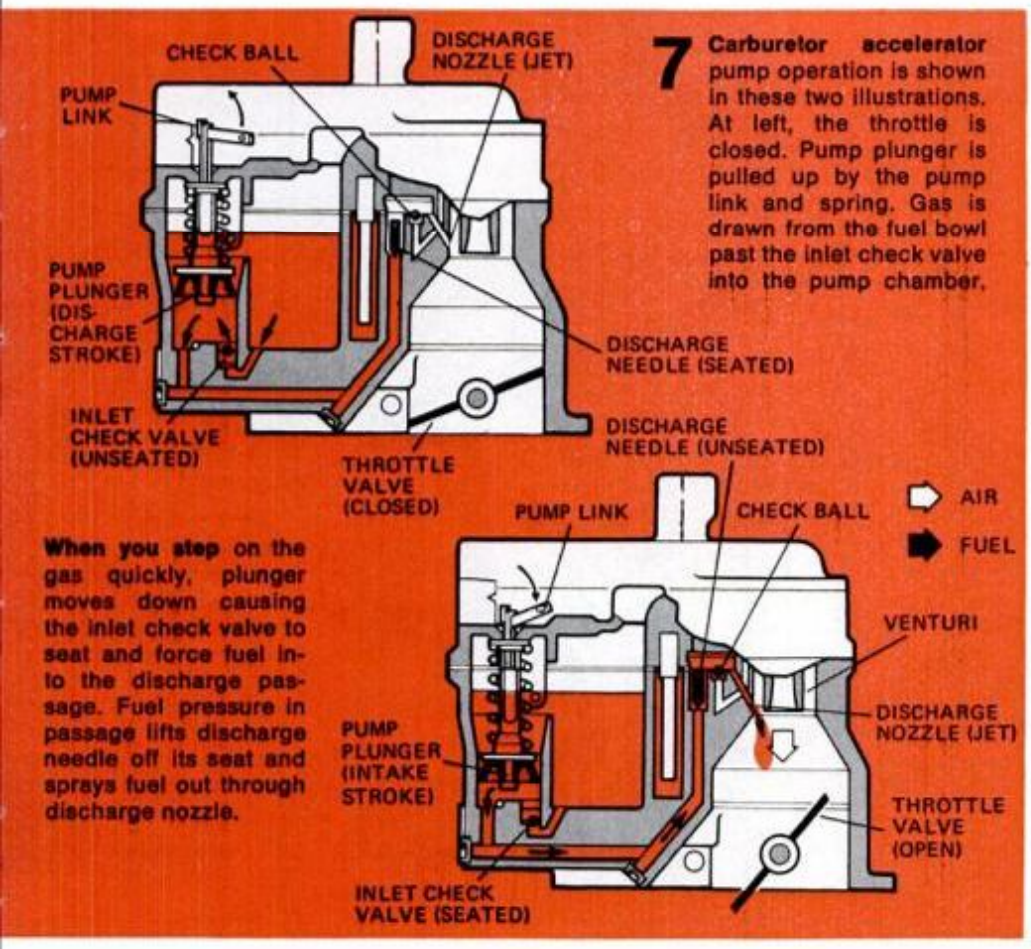


5 **Typical automatic choke** is carb-mounted, marked for rich/lean. Going one mark rich may stop hesitation.

6 **Check fuel pump** as possible culprit with setup shown above. Fuel pump specs correspond to curb idle speed.

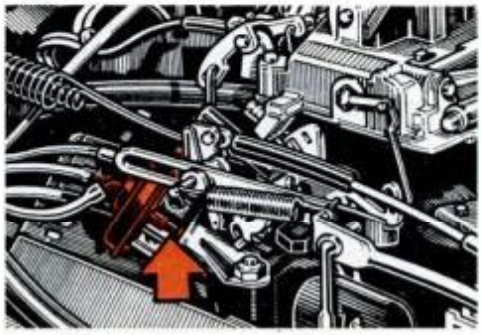




7 **Carburetor accelerator** pump operation is shown in these two illustrations. At left, the throttle is closed. Pump plunger is pulled up by the pump link and spring. Gas is drawn from the fuel bowl past the inlet check valve into the pump chamber.

When you step on the gas quickly, plunger moves down causing the inlet check valve to seat and force fuel into the discharge passage. Fuel pressure in passage lifts discharge needle off its seat and sprays fuel out through discharge nozzle.

8 **Engine problems** can cause hesitation so test compression and refer to the diagnosis procedures in the text.



9 **Exhaust gas** recirculation valve (arrow), usually located close to carb, could be culprit. See test in text.

been built into your car. First, consult the service department of a dealership. Ask the man in charge to check his index of service bulletins to determine if a bulletin has been issued by the manufacturer covering your circumstances.

If the service department can't or won't help, write the *service division* of the particular carmaker. Provide a full description of your car and ask if there is a service bulletin concerning hesitation.

Now start troubleshooting

Once you find out that hesitation isn't the result of a manufacturing error, the job of uncovering the cause becomes a matter of intelligent troubleshooting.

There are 20 or so different reasons, but practically all can be pinpointed by four checks:

- Check sparkplugs and cables.
- Test ignition output.
- Check fuel supply.
- Test compression.

Sparkplugs and cables

Examine cables and boots for dryness and cracks. You may be losing current before it reaches the sparkplugs. An accurate test for leakage is done with a jumper test wire that has alligator clips fastened at both ends and a screwdriver. Fasten one clip to ground, and attach the other to the screwdriver.

Remove one cable from a sparkplug, and point its boot up in the air so it isn't near a ground. Let the engine idle and probe the length of the cable with the screwdriver tip.

If the cable is leaking, spark will jump from the cable to the screwdriver. Check all cables this way.

However, don't do this test if the engine is equipped with electronic ignition. Once electronic ignition is examined visually, further testing requires special equipment.

Check that sparkplugs are in good condition and make sure electrode gap is set to the specification printed on the tune-up decal glued somewhere in the engine compartment. A gap wider than specified is a chief cause of hesitation.

Ignition output

The bad guy you're looking for is a weak coil—sometimes difficult to uncover, because a coil often doesn't break down until it gets hot. Suspect the coil if hesitation doesn't occur until the engine is warm.

First test the coil with the engine cold by removing the cable from the No. 1 sparkplug and inserting a screwdriver with an insulated handle in the boot, so the tip contacts

(Please turn to page 148)

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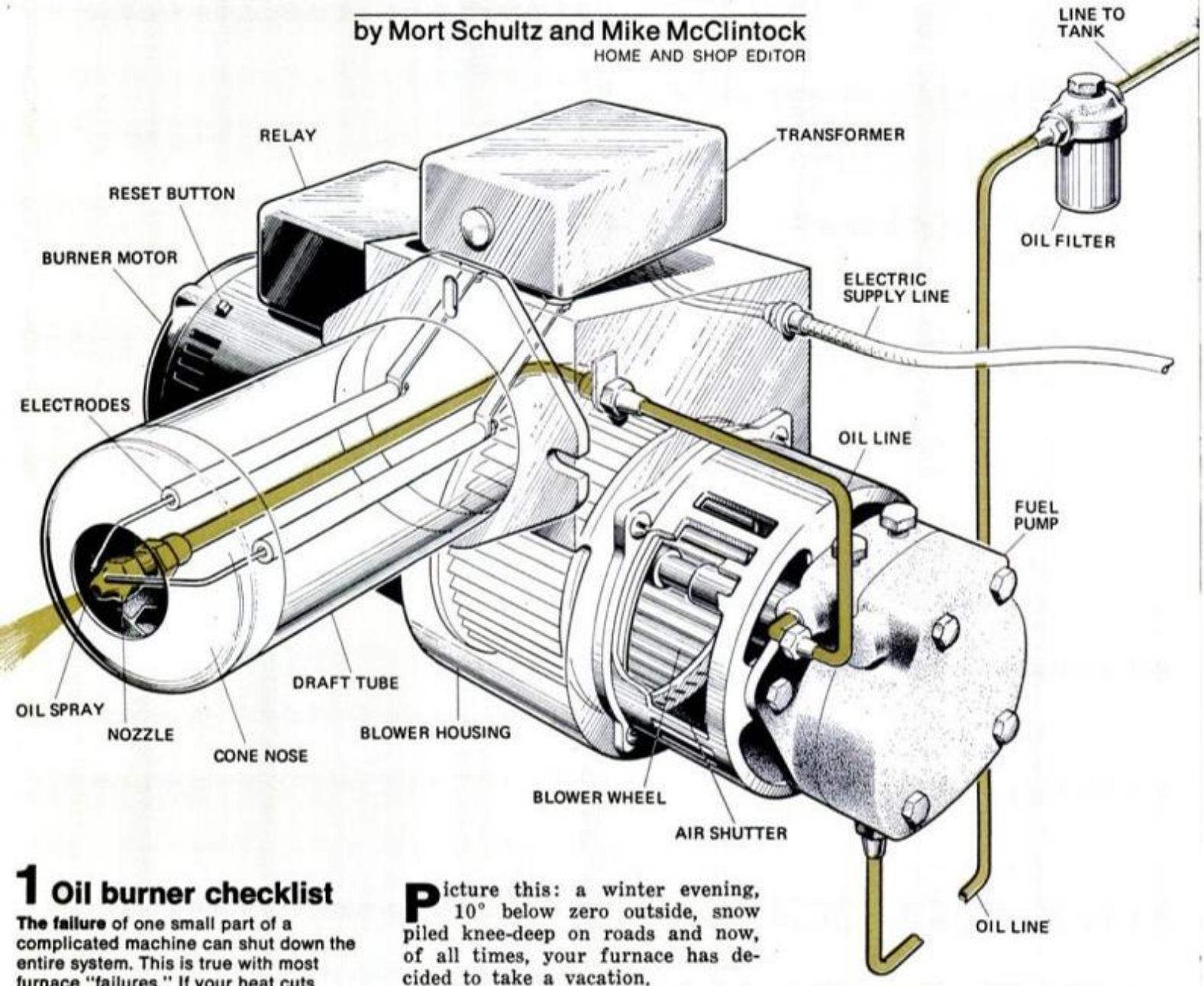
Furnace fix-ups that save fuel and money

Most furnace failures are caused by minor problems that are easily corrected. If your furnace conks out unexpectedly, this checklist could save you a cold night and a service call.

by Mort Schultz and Mike McClintock
HOME AND SHOP EDITOR



1 Oil burner checklist

The failure of one small part of a complicated machine can shut down the entire system. This is true with most furnace "failures." If your heat cuts off, chances are the cause is one of the culprits here or on the following pages: no oil in the tank, in-line oil filter clogged, thermostat accidently set too low, dirty contact points on an older thermostat, an emergency switch away from the furnace mistaken for a light switch and turned off accidentally.

Picture this: a winter evening, 10° below zero outside, snow piled knee-deep on roads and now, of all times, your furnace has decided to take a vacation.

The temperature in the house is nosediving several degrees every few minutes, and you know deep down inside, without having to make any calls, that there isn't a serviceman in the area who can come to your rescue.

Don't hit the panic button. Take the positive approach and try to get your furnace to deliver some heat again. Most furnace breakdowns result from minor problems. Maybe your solution won't be permanent, but it may suffice until a serviceman can get to your home.

Get your facts straight

Think a minute: Has the furnace really shut down or is the delivery system on the blink? It's easy enough to find out.

Shove the thermostat up high and check the furnace. If it is firing, then the reason for the lowered temperature is an inoperative heat delivery system. This is the system

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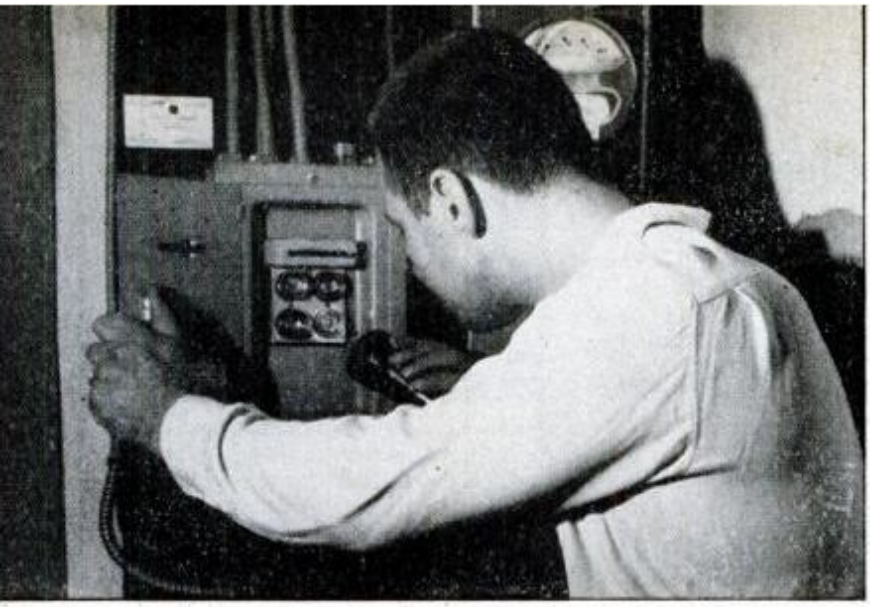
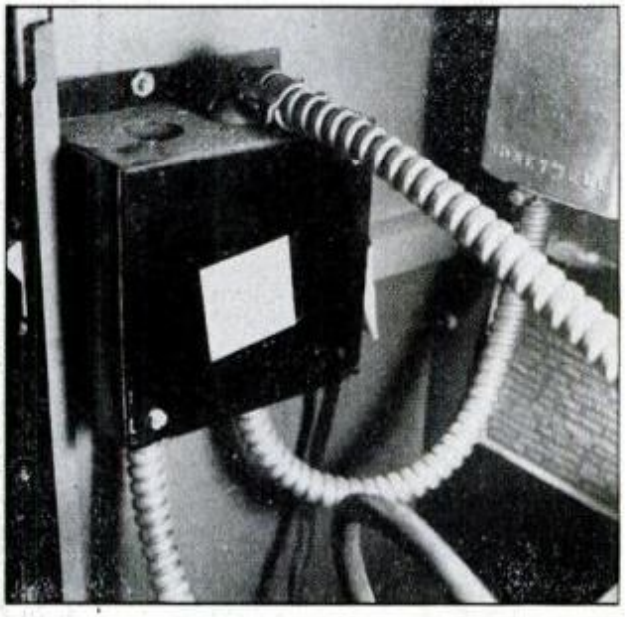


2 Fuse box check

Don't rely on a visual check of the fuse. Try turning it to see if it has come loose, and try replacing it. If you have a circuit breaker, see if it is tripped and reset it firmly. If it trips again, don't press the issue. Always have spare fuses.



3 Electrical field connections

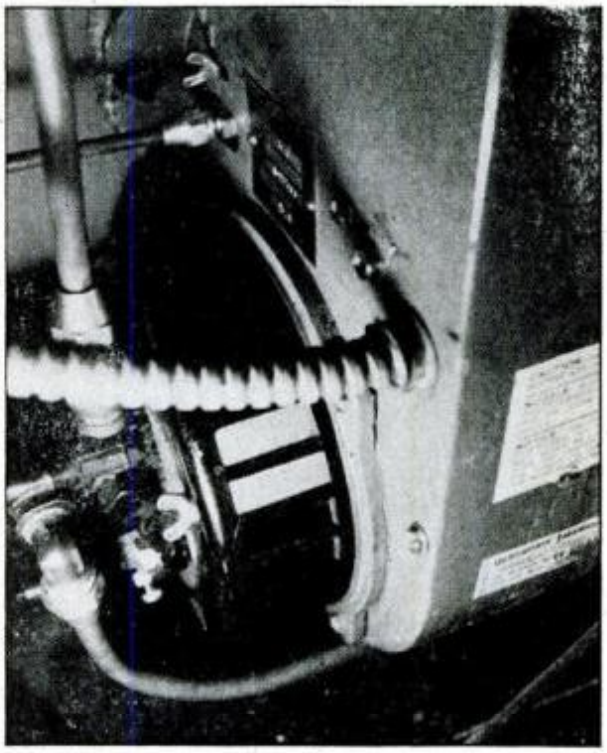
Many furnaces are equipped with a junction box that houses field connections between the supply, motor and fan controls. Turn off the current to the unit, remove the cover plate and make sure that the connections inside are secure. Vibration of an oil burner motor can cause wire nuts to loosen.

—forced air, steam or hot water—that transfers heat from the furnace firebox to your living quarters.

If there is a problem with the delivery system, some heat will get to the living quarters in most cases, if only by gravity. You can, however, do some things in an attempt to increase heat flow. For example, if you have a forced hot-air system, be sure all filters are clean. If the blower motor works by drive belt (it's a good idea to keep a spare belt on hand), see that the belt is not broken. If the blower motor is not working at all, shut off its switch

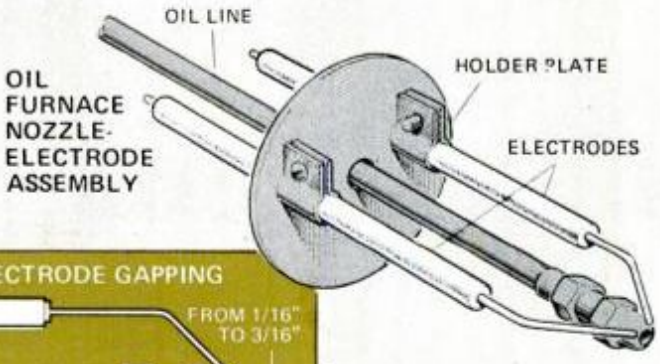
4 Oil pump problems

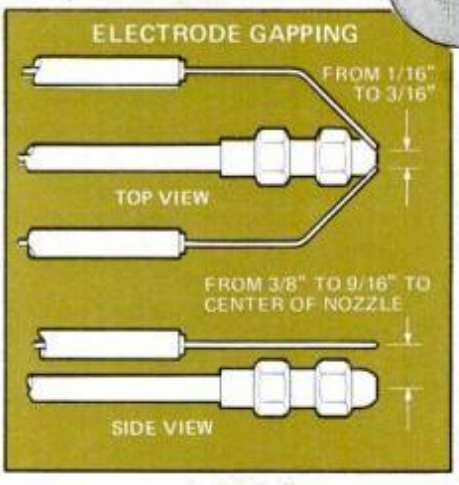
Make sure the cutoff valve in the oil line is open. With a one-line system, it is possible for pump to become air-bound. You can relieve this by bleeding the line at bleed valve until air bubbles disappear.



5 Reset switches

Most oil burners have two safety switches; one to protect the motor from overload and one to shut down the oil pump if the spray doesn't ignite. Press the motor reset first. If the motor does not start, activate the stack control relay once. If the furnace won't ignite after you've reset these switches once, don't keep pushing them.





6 Nozzle, electrodes

Follow the procedure listed under "nozzle-electrode assembly inspection" to detach spray nozzle and wash it in warm water. Blowing air through the opening will help remove clogged debris. You can try to clear a blockage with a thin strand of wire, but make sure that you don't damage or enlarge the nozzle opening. Standard electrode gap settings are shown in the diagram at left.

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7 Clogged filters

Although clogged filters probably won't shut down your furnace, they could make you think something is wrong with the delivery system. It pays to keep an extra drive belt on hand for the blower motor in case the belt breaks. If the motor itself should conk out, you can increase the gravity heat flow temporarily by removing the filters.

8 Air bleeding

If you have a hot-water system and radiators, an air-locked unit could be keeping heat out of some rooms. You can test for this by opening the bleed valve on the radiator, allowing air to escape until water appears. Hot water circulators, usually installed near the furnace, can bind up if they aren't lubricated. Check the manufacturer's directions.

9 Servicing

Professional servicing is the best way to prevent mid-winter freeze-ups. Check your utility or oil company now to find out if there are any exotic devices in your system, like a photoelectric cell, that need special attention or parts.

10 Cleaning

Here are some of the spots where dirt build-up can cause problems: in-line oil filter, spray nozzle, thermostat contacts, electrode tips and on some units the photoelectric cell cover.

and remove all the filters temporarily to increase the gravity heat flow to the rooms.

If you have radiators, an air-locked unit may be keeping the heat out of some rooms. Bleed the air through the valves on the radiators until water appears.

If the circulator of a hot water system is not working, maybe it has bound up because of lack of lubrication. Lubricate it now and press the reset switch or give the unit a sharp slap with your hand to help free it.

See that there is water in the boiler of a steam system. A burner will shut itself off automatically if water falls below a safe level. If the boiler is hot, let it cool before refilling. Cold water could crack a hot boiler.

Suppose, though, that the delivery system is okay and that the furnace itself has failed. There is a definite procedure to follow that could overcome the problem. Here's a checklist to use for both oil burner and gas burner furnace failure.

Oil burner checklist

■ **Thermostat inspection.** Perhaps the test you made which required you to shove the thermostat way up overcame this failure. Someone may have inadvertently set the thermostat down.

Day-night thermostats have given many homeowners fits. If someone reverse the cycle, the nighttime setting, which is normally cooler, will prevail during the day. This could cool the house down and make you think the furnace has conked out.

If day-night settings are normal, check under the cover. Older thermostats have a tendency to gather dirt on the contact points which can keep them apart. This interrupts the circuit and prevents furnace operation. Draw an index card between the points to get rid of dirt. Thermostats that have sealed mercury capsules don't have this problem.

■ **Fuse or circuit breaker check.** Don't just look at a fuse. Turn it to see if it has come loose. Try replacing it. You may not be able to see if it's bad by eye, so keep spares on hand for emergencies like this. The fuse may be a cartridge or screw-in type. If the circuit breaker has tripped, reset it.

There should be no other electric devices operating on the same circuit as the furnace, but if there are, keep them turned off. If the breaker trips again or a new fuse blows, don't press the issue. There's probably an electrical malfunction that requires the expertise of a service technician. Haul out the extra blankets.

■ **Emergency switch check.** Accidentally turning off emergency switches accounts for more oil burner "failures" than anything else.

Oil burners are generally outfitted with two emergency switches and in some cases three or four. It's a good idea to find them all now, before the storm, if you don't know where they're located.

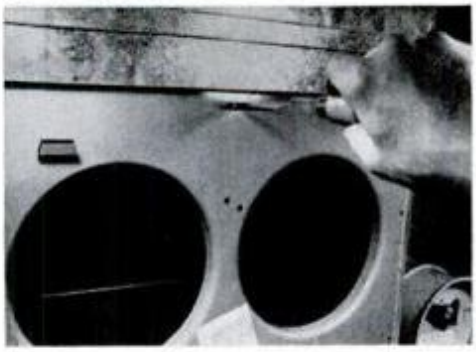
There is usually one switch on the furnace itself and another away from the furnace at the head of the cellar stairs or on a joist above a cellar door. That switch at the top of the basement stairway is the one that gets mistaken for a light switch most often and is turned off. Good-by heat.

■ **Oil capacity check.** Let's not overlook the obvious. Do you have oil? No oil, no heat. You can check the tank with a dipstick.

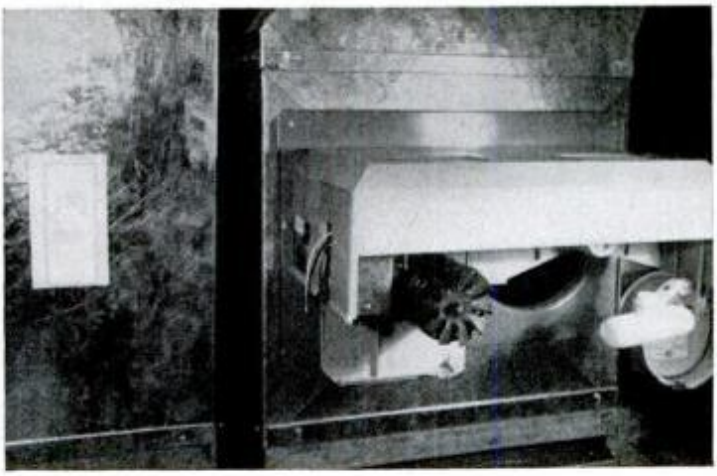
■ **Safety switch test.** Safety switches protect an oil burner from a problem that can cause major damage. There are usually two of them: a motor overload switch that protects the oil pump motor against electrical surge, and a stack-control

(Please turn to page 146)

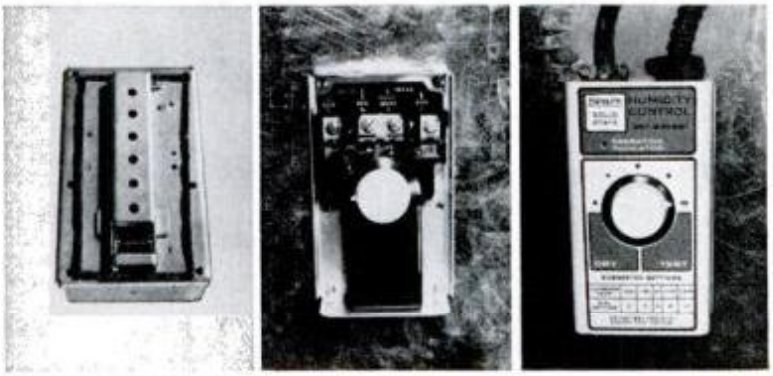
11 Get more warmth for your money with a humidifier



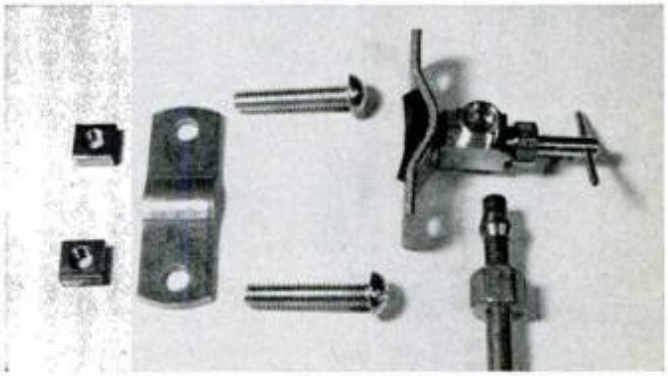
Humidifier box is mounted on a plenum stiffener. For the Sears unit we used, a section of the supply plenum is cut away and the stiffener is attached with screws.



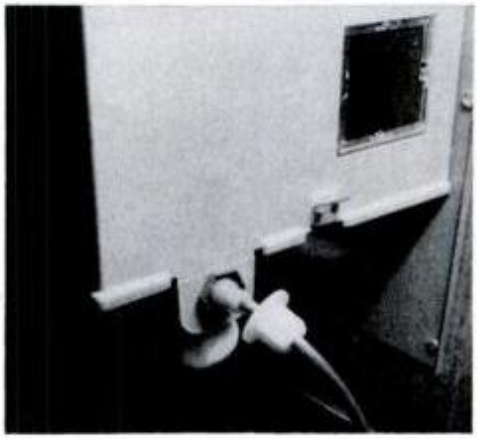
The plastic housing is supported by mounting tabs on the stiffener and secured by pressing a capped fastener (all of the attaching hardware is provided with the unit) through the back panel. A paper cutting template for the humidity limit control is glued to return air plenum. Dotted lines on the paper indicate the exact cut lines.



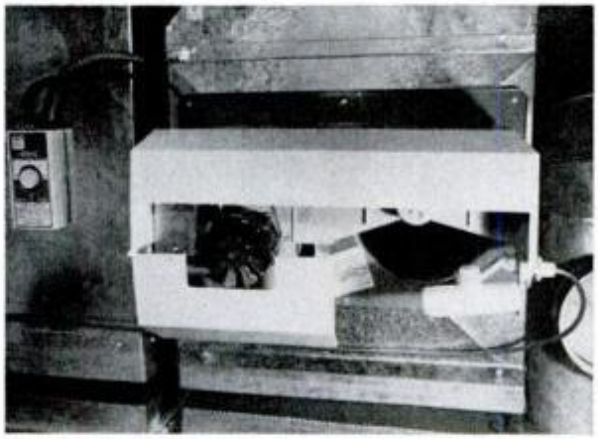
The humidity sensor on the back of the unit reads moisture content of return air. Foam strips make a tight seal between the unit and the duct. Setting directions are on the face.



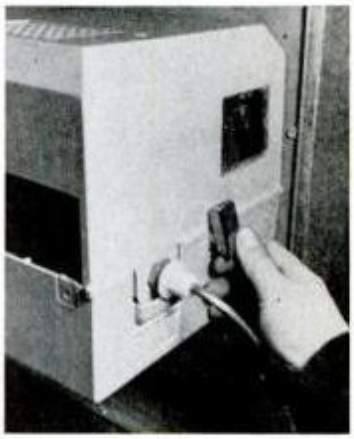
A saddle valve is clamp-mounted to a water line near the furnace. Copper tubing with a compression fitting connects to the valve. A piercing stem inside taps into the line.



Copper tubing is attached to humidifier with a nylon compression nut. Water level is regulated by a float valve.

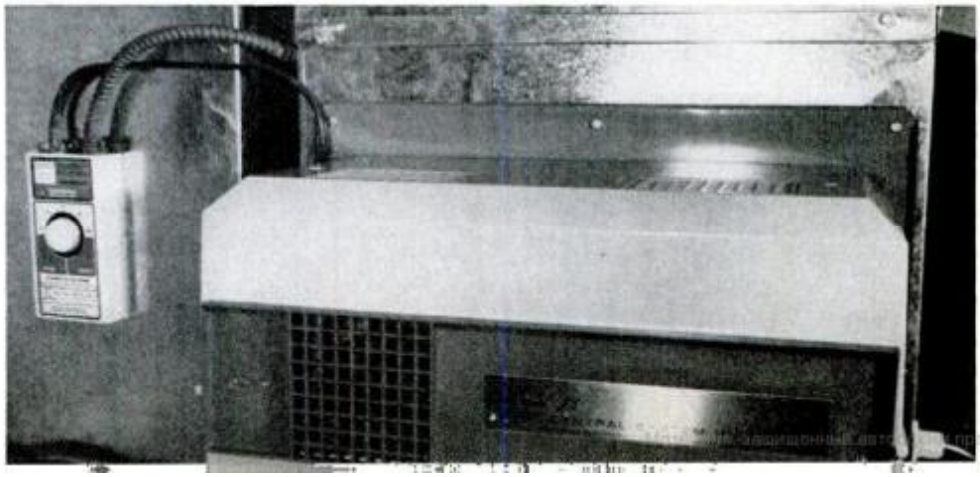


The humidity limit control is wired to a fused 120-volt circuit and the blower motor switch. The float valve is seen at right where the tubing enters.



The plastic water container under the float is easily fitted and latched securely.

Complete the assembly by snapping in the front vent grille. Although it's not necessary for operation, a system is built into the tank which can replace the standing water supply regularly to prevent lime buildup. In this case you must run a hose between the tank and a drain outlet. The Sears Model 75 we used sells for $97.75, can evaporate up to 13 gallons of water per day and is suited for homes in the 2000-sq.-ft. range. An added note: Sears installation directions continue to be clear, well organized and well illustrated, an important part of the product for do-it-yourselfers that's often overlooked.



Chef's knives you can make

Follow PM's patterns to make your own kitchen knives with fine steel blades and rosewood handles.

by Mike McClintock
HOME AND SHOP EDITOR

Материал защищен

It pays to use top-quality tools on your shop projects. They make your job go faster and look better. The same is true for kitchen tools. Now you can avoid the high cost of fine imported cutlery by making your own.

The key is locating the right materials (they'll run about $15 for the set) and using the right tools to make them. PM has done this advance work for you so you can concentrate on the construction. You won't need exotic metalworking tools.

Knives are usually made on a forge where a controlled heat makes the metal malleable enough to shape with a hammer and anvil. Since this setup is not available to most home craftsmen, we designed a set of three knives, made from oil-hardening steel, that can be processed using either an oxyacetylene or oxypropane torch as the heat source.

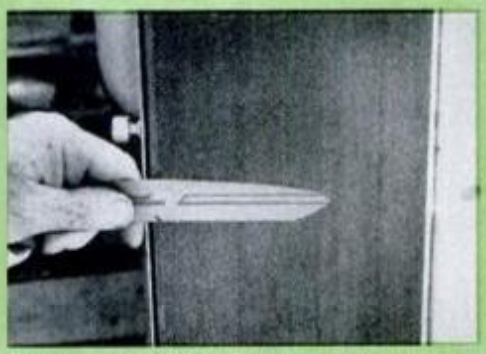
The blade (skeleton) is made from Starrett No. 496 oil-hardening, precision-ground flat stock. For a distributor in your area, write to the L.S. Starrett Co., Athol, Mass., 01331.

Blade preparation

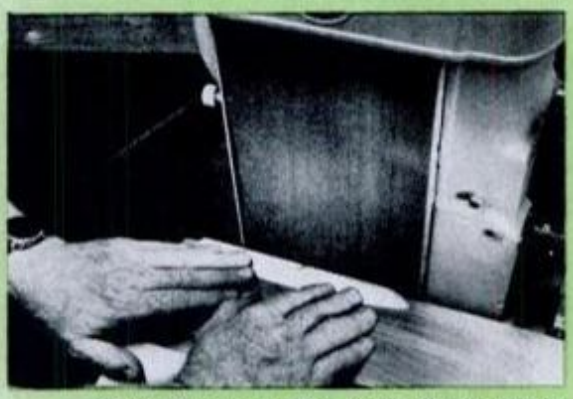
Make full-scale paper patterns for the blades using our grid plans (page 111). First, you rough-cut the skeletons with a hacksaw. Then take the blades down to their final outline using a belt or disc sander.

After drilling the rivet holes with

Clamp the steel blank in a vise and cut out the profile with a hacksaw. Use the grid plan on page 111 to make patterns.



You can use either a belt or disc sander with a No. 100-grit abrasive to sand the sides down to the tapered edge.



Clean the top profile of the blade, called the skeleton, on a sander. A smooth-cutting file will also clean the edge.

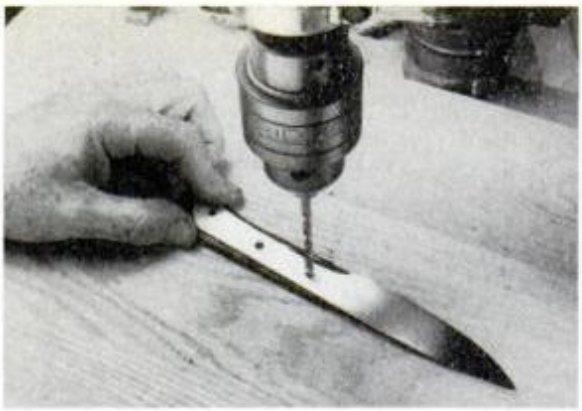
Rough down the concave part of the handle section with a second-cut file and follow this up with a smoothing file.

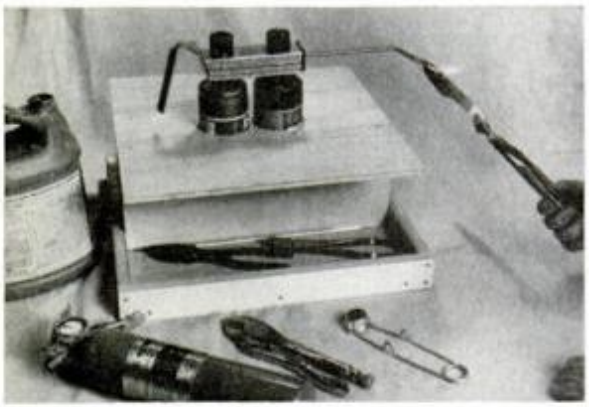
Clamp the skeleton to a piece of scrap wood in a vise. This leaves both of your hands free to control the file.

Lubricate the steel with oil and sand with progressively finer grits (from 120 down to a fine 320) of silicon carbide paper.

PM photos: Benn Mitchell

Use our grid drawings to make full-size paper templates for the knives. Mark the locations of the rivet holes and drill them out with a No. 17 bit. The patterns and their corresponding steel skeletons shown at right have been sanded clean and are ready for heat treating, tempering and a final sanding before the rosewood handles are attached.





New BernzOmatic oxypropane torch is a high-quality metalworking tool that can develop enough heat to simulate a forge. It sells for about $40. We made a simple caddy to hold it securely and played safe by having a fire extinguisher handy. We used Devcon five-minute epoxy to hold the handle sections, called scales, to the steel during riveting operation.

Attach rosewood scales one at a time. Using the holes in the steel as a guide, backdrill the first scale with a No. 17 bit. Then glue on the other scale, turn the knife over and use the holes in the handle as a guide to drill out the second handle section. Follow by counterboring for the brake rivets and brass FH screws, assemble and fine-sand to finish.

a No. 17 bit, sand and file the beveled cross section on the skeletons. We drilled the holes at this stage while the steel was soft enough to work. If you were to heat-harden the handle first, you'd have to buy a special bit to drill through it or go back and heat-treat the area to soften the spots where the holes go.

After the rough cutting, a gradual process of filing and wet sanding will finish the shaping. Attach the skeleton with a C-clamp at the end of the handle to 1x3 or 1x4 stock. Mount this board in a vise on the flat with the clamp toward you. Don't worry about filing marks on the steel.

When you've completed the shaping by finishing with a smooth file, start a wet sanding schedule using silicon-carbide paper and oil as a lubricant. Begin with a No. 120 grit, gradually remove the tooling and grit marks from the filing stage. As heavy marks start to fade, switch to a finer grit all the way down to No. 320. Complete this stage by working the skeleton with oil and 4/0 steel wool.

Heat treating

Tempering steel may seem too specialized for a do-it-yourselfer, but with preparation, you can do the job easily. To make the steel hard you have to heat it, quench the skeleton in oil and temper it. We used a BernzOmatic oxypropane torch, mineral oil for quenching and a kitchen oven set at 400° for tempering.

Here's how to do the job efficiently and safely. To leave both hands free and avoid accidentally knocking over the torch, we built a simple but stable caddy. Don't apply any finish to the wood. Set up your work on a fireproof work surface like Transite or other asbestos board. Then make sure there are no combustibles, such as thinner, pipe dope or oil paint in the immediate area. Cut off the top of a gallon metal can and fill it with enough mineral oil to cover the knife when it's inserted vertically.

For this job wear gloves and goggles. Put long-handled pliers and a torch igniter in the caddy and as a safety measure keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher handy. If you don't already have one, use this project as an excuse to get it.

Check the manufacturer's instructions before you start. Usually the procedure is to ignite the fuel and adjust it to a 4-in. flame. Then add oxygen slowly until you get a blue light inside the flame about ¾-in. long. Hold the steel with your pliers and heat it uniformly until it reaches an orangy color. Experienced forgers often use a fresh orange peel as a guide. Then immediately quench it in the oil, point first, for about 10 seconds.

To temper the blade, clean and dry it completely and hang it with a wire from an oven rack for one hour at 400°. After it's cooled, clean it with

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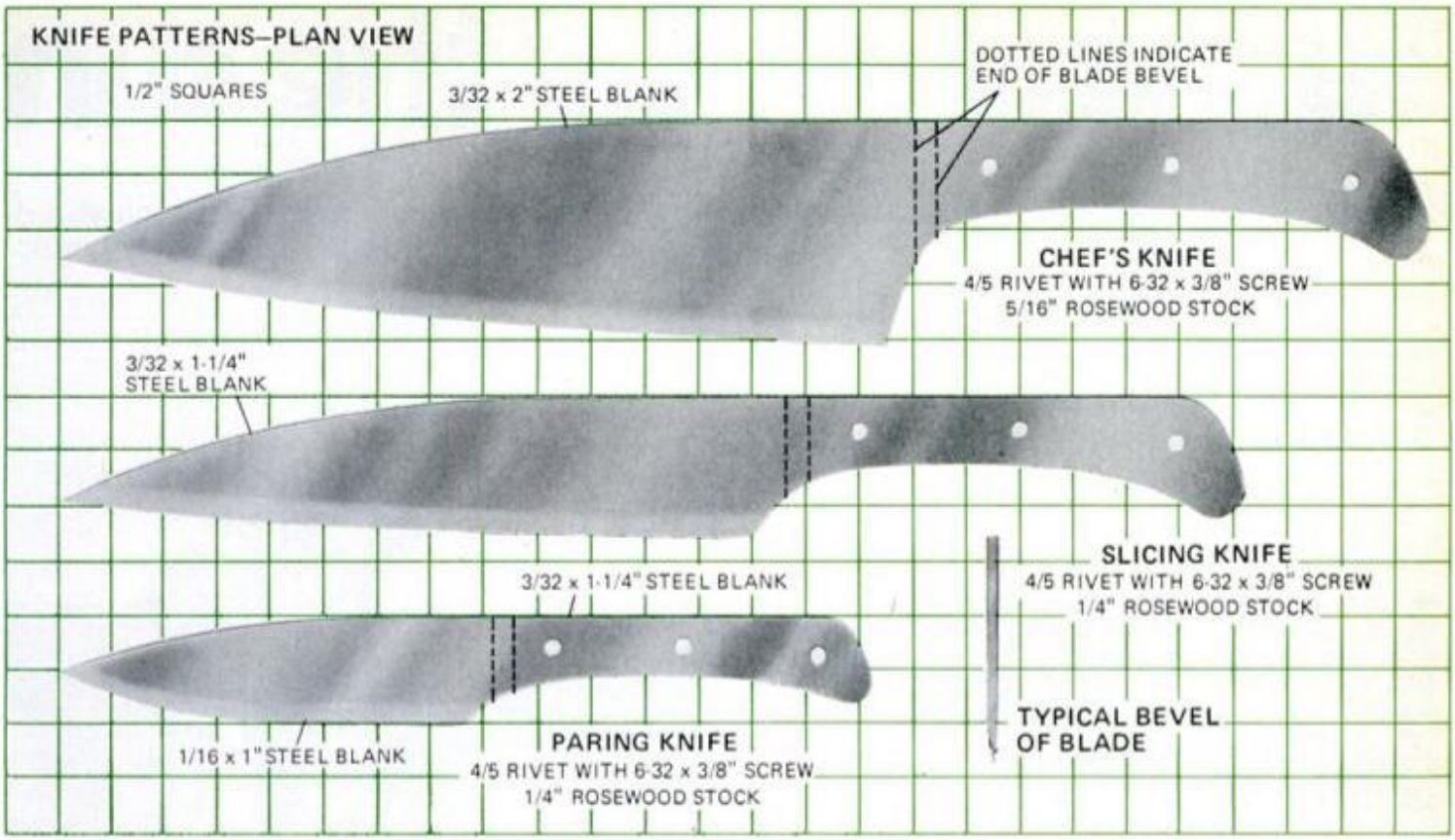


PM art: Fred L. Wolff

fine silicon carbide paper and oil followed by 4/0 steel wool and oil.

Rosewood handles

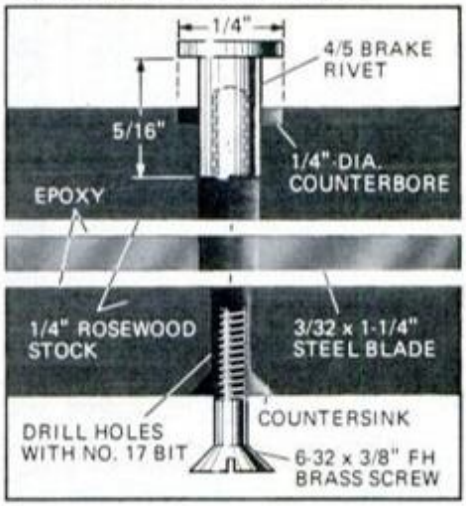
Depending on knife size, cut your handle sections, called scales, from ¼-in. or 5/16-in. rosewood. We used Devcon five-minute epoxy to attach one scale, let it cure, then drilled through the rivet holes with a No. 17 bit. Repeat for the other scale.

We searched for matching male and female rivets, but found they were only available in huge quantities. We got good results with 4/5 brass brake rivets (try an auto supply store) and No. 6 FH brass machine screws. Make the counterbores carefully and press home the rivets in a vise. Leave enough of the screwhead showing to file away the slot. Finish by sanding the scale edges flush with the skeleton edges.

Blade sharpening

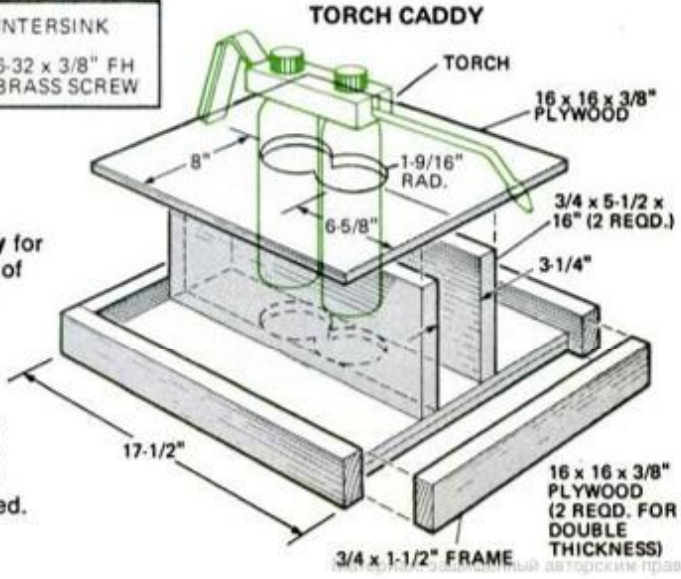
To put an edge on your new blade, make repeated diagonal strokes on a soft Arkansas stone, then on a fine India stone using oil liberally. To finish, use a hard white Washita stone with water. Fine-sand the handles and apply a thin coat of vegetable oil to the rosewood. ★★★

RIVET AND SCREW DETAIL



Commercially made knives use male-female rivets to secure the handle sections. We found that these were only available in high quantities and substituted the detail shown at left. It uses 4/5 brake rivets that you can get at an auto supply or brake shop and FH brass machine screws available at hardware stores. Use a brad point or a Forstner bit to make the flat counterbore for the brake rivet.

TORCH CADDY



We made this simple caddy for the BernzOmatic torch out of scrap wood. Don't apply a finish or glue. You can use the base sections to keep your pliers and torch igniter at hand. Make sure you don't operate the torch near any combustible materials and keep the area well ventilated.

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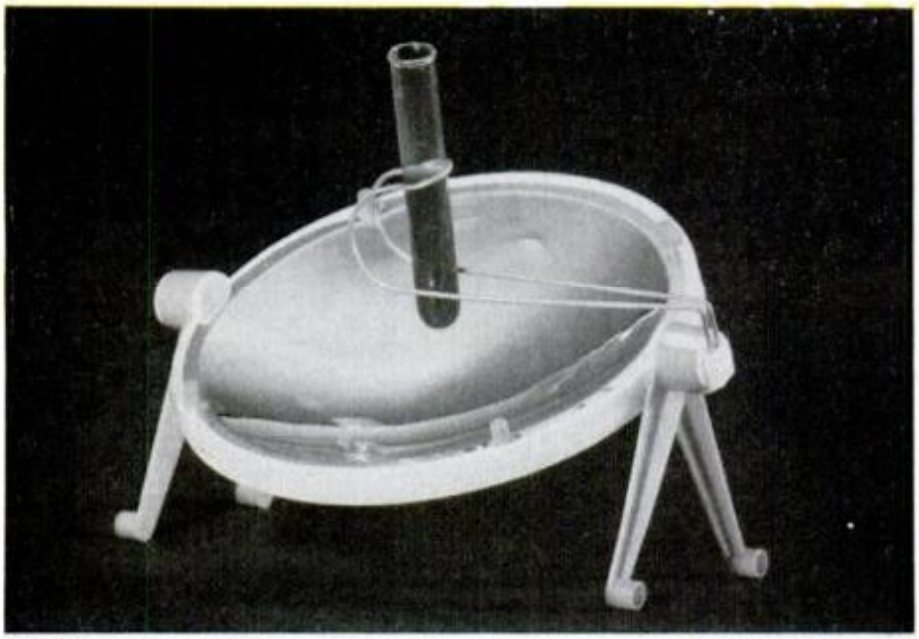
Turned on by the sun

New solar energy technology is being used in a cluster of small-scale gadgets that are surprisingly cheap.

by Mort Schultz



A 6¾-inch parabolic reflector is used to concentrate heat on a test tube hooked onto stand. The inexpensive unit, ideal for science projects, is $3.25 from Edmund Scientific Co., Barrington, N.J. 08007. Other products shown here are also available from Edmund.

No charcoal, starter or flame—what a way to cook! This 1-pound portable solar cooker adjusts to track the sun. Solar furnace (top right) uses a Fresnel lens to develop focused heat of 2000°. At right is a cute little $3000 item: a 70-inch Fresnel lens with 60 focusing grooves per inch—one of a kind.

An amazing number of solar-energy gadgets are available to you at surprisingly low prices. Now you can get a digital watch, a flashlight, a soldering unit, a portable cooker and oven—even a portable water heater for $9.50—all operated by solar energy. Soon you may even be able to get a solar-powered razor.

All this is possible because of better solar-cell technology and decreased solar-cell prices—down to $15 per watt unit from the $500 of 15 years ago.

Solar cells have no movable parts to wear out. Furthermore, the fuel they use is clean, abundant and free. At any instant, the sun delivers 1000 watts per square meter to the earth's surface, most of which is absorbed as heat by the sea, air and earth.

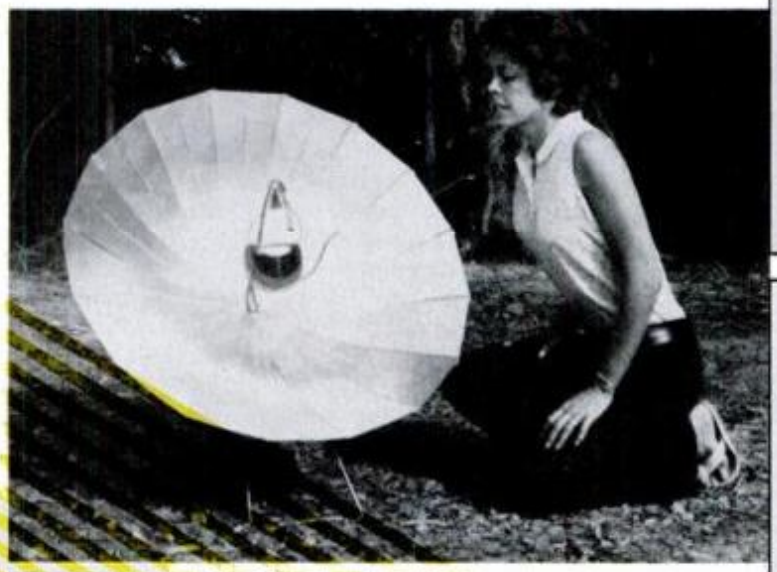
Wafer-thin solar cells are able to convert some of this light energy into electrical energy through a process known as the photovoltaic effect. Here's how it works:

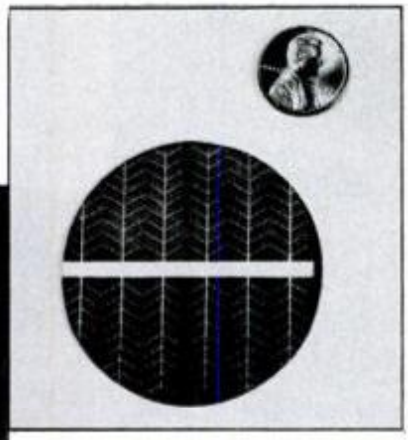
Silicon, a poor conductor in its pure state, is doped with other elements to obtain negative and positive charge carriers.

Boron-treated silicon produces negative (N-type) carriers called electrons. Phosphorous-treated silicon gives positive (P-type) carriers called holes.

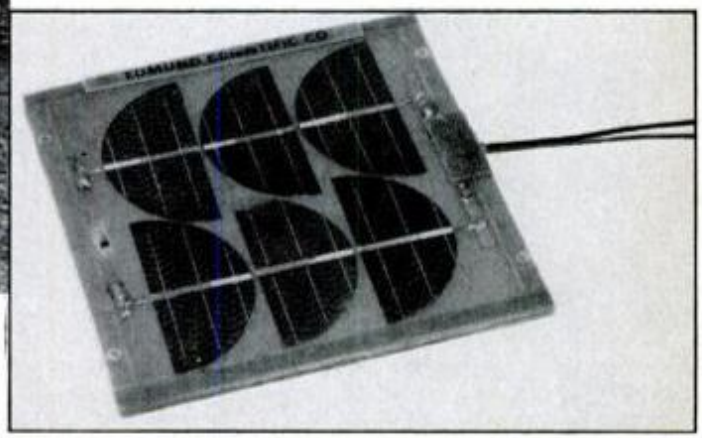
The N and P-type silicon chips are fused to form a solar cell. In sunlight or incandescent light, incoming units of light called photons are absorbed by the cell. Red light penetrates deeply and is absorbed by the P-type silicon. Blue light is

Folded up, it measures only 2x8x20 inches, small enough to be portable. The lightweight aluminum reflector (it weighs 2 pounds) unfolds to form a 36-inch-diameter parabolic reflector which comes equipped with a cooking arm and tripod mount. The interlocking panels are secured with a single center wingnut. The price is $22.95.

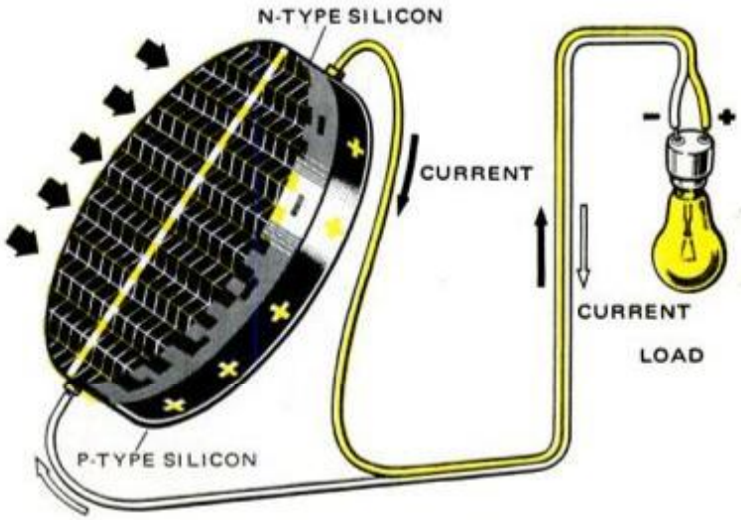




Single cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes, including 4-inch-diameter units (left) as well as smaller pie wedge and square cell sizes below. N/P type silicon units come with tab leads and a transparent protective coating. Efficiency is estimated at a minimum of 10 percent.



Do you like the idea of free batteries? These flashlighs use a detachable solar array to supply power. Leave them in the sun to charge and clip them onto the light whenever you need it.



Power produced by the negative and positive-type silicon wafers runs through the leads to a d.c. load or battery.

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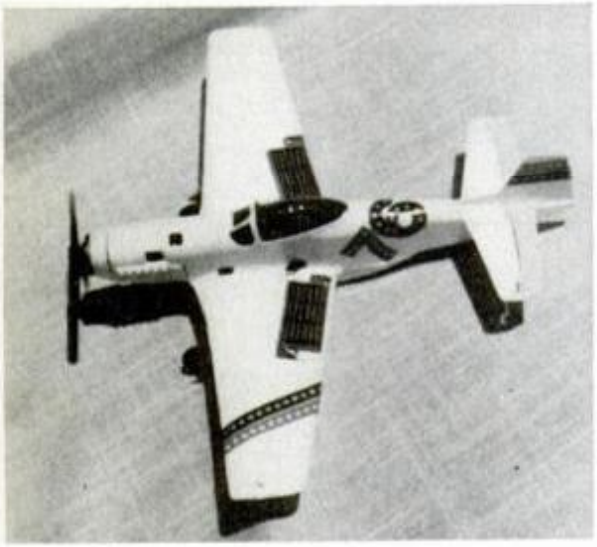
Solar panels are available in all shapes and sizes. There can be units with as few as four and as many as 96 cells. The units provide d.c. power, are sealed for outdoor use and come with polarized leads.



Solar supplies on the market now make it possible to convert some conventionally powered machines like the cassette recorder and the model plane to run on sun power. We found the ingenious plans for the solar plane in the July '76 issue of *Radio Control Modeler* magazine. Six 2¼-inch cells on each wing and a diode regulator supply voltage to a 4.8-volt battery, radio control and three servos. Complete solar drive weighs 2 ounces, needs weekly charging.

absorbed just below the surface by the N-type silicon.

The separation of light into energy units produces a flow of electric current. The life of this power source would be too short to be used (about one millionth of a second) were it not for another element of the cell called a junction.

Electric current would cease as soon as the two units of light (red and blue) recombined, so the job of the junction, which is made by diffusing phosphorous into boron-treated silicon at high temperature, is to keep them apart to maintain the power source.

Gimmicks, gadgets and tools

Theoretically, it is possible to use solar cells for any application that requires electricity. For example, Edmund Scientific Co. stocks two groups of solar products—those with solar cells and those using solar energy directly without cells. Edmund has a solar-cell electronic digital watch and a solar-cell flashlight (conventional and camper models). The electronic digital watch uses nine ½-volt solar cells to charge a 2½-volt rechargeable battery. Recharging is done by leaving the watch face to the sun or under an incandescent lamp.

The watch provides five functions: hours, minutes, seconds, month and date. It weighs only five ounces, is guaranteed for one year, sells for $199.95 and is made by the Uranus Electronics Corp. of Port Chester, N.Y. It is sold only through selected distributors.

The flashlight has nine solar cells that produce 40 milliamps at 4.8 volts to charge two "C" size nickel cadmium rechargeable batteries. Fully charged, it can operate for about two hours. The cells need about a week of exposure to sunlight or incandescent light to fully recharge the batteries.

The conventional flashlight sells for $29.95; the camping model, $49.95. Edmund also retails solar cells and panels for whatever use you wish to make of them.

Solar building blocks

Individual cells range from $1.95 to $29.95. The smallest produces a current of 10 milliamps. at .45 volt. The largest, with a 4-inch diameter, delivers a full watt of power. Its current is over 2 amps. at .45 volt.

Solar panels sell from $39.95 to $995. The smallest combines four 2¼-inch solar cells to give 280 milliamps. at 1.5 volts. The largest utilizes 36 4-inch cells to give 2.1 amps. at 14 volts.

A variety of other panels available are listed in Edmund's catalog; to get it, write Edmund Scientific Co., Barrington, N.J. 08007.

Although it presently is not available, a solar-cell electric shaver may be ready by Christmas '77. One has been developed by N.V. Philips of the Netherlands, which offers the Norelco brand in the United States.

The shaver case will contain nine solar cells which, when exposed to the sun or incandescent light for 24 hours, will charge the unit for three weeks' worth of shaves. The company told PM it hopes to be able to put the units on the market for about $100.

Hot water and hot dogs

Other solar products include devices that use the sun to do work without the need for solar cells. Here's a lineup of available products:

■ **Solar furnace**—This device de-

(Please turn to page 154)

This 12x19-inch vinyl water heater weighs 12 ounces empty, holds 10 quarts of water. Three hours of sun on a 70° day will take temperature inside up to 100°.

Материал защищенный авторским правом

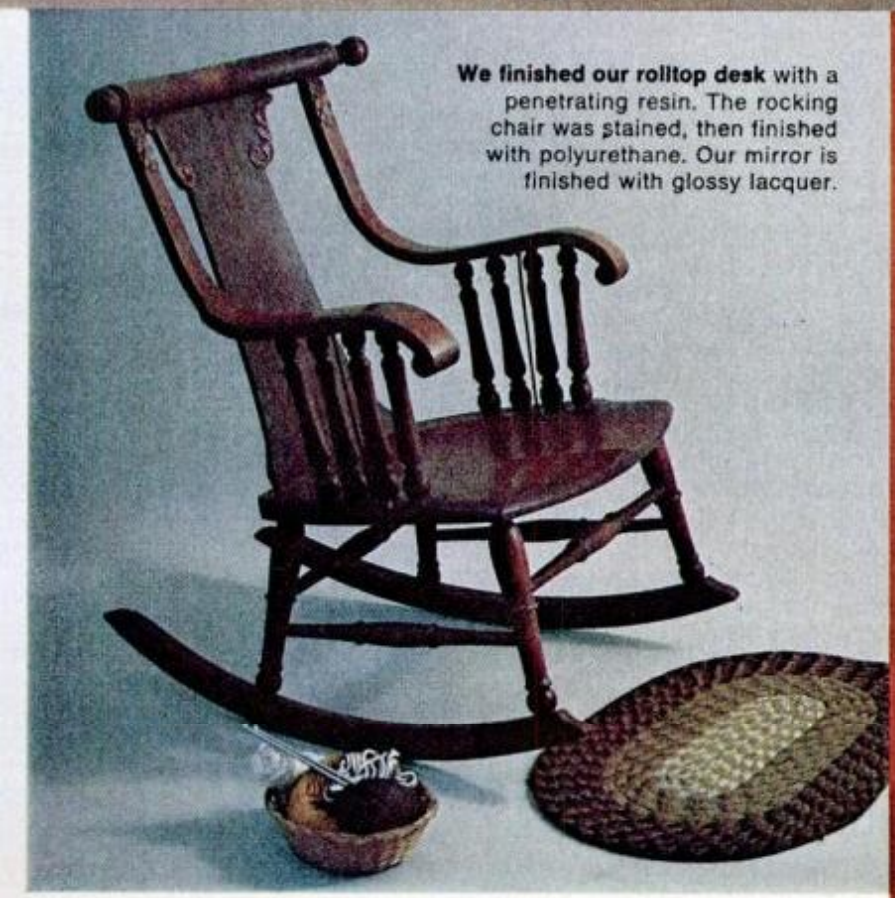
Complete guide to furniture finishing

Here's how to revitalize your old favorites as well as treat new 'raw' wood units.

by Penelope Angell
ASSISTANT HOME AND SHOP EDITOR

It makes good sense to learn how to finish furniture. That skill can often be the key to filling your house with valuable antiques at bargain prices. You can also acquire new furniture less expensively if it's unfinished. With a little patience and a moderate bit of work, you can put a professional finishing touch on all types of furniture.

Finishing is a step-by-step process; along the



We finished our rolltop desk with a penetrating resin. The rocking chair was stained, then finished with polyurethane. Our mirror is finished with glossy lacquer.

PM color photos: Stephen Fay

DESK As wood prices skyrocket, the purchasing of raw furniture to finish at home is becoming more and more popular. We finished this white pine rolltop desk with Watco Danish oil, a penetrating oil and resin mixture. The finish added a slight honey color to the desk but let the character of the natural pine stand on its own.

The first step, as with finishing all raw furniture, was to sand the wood smooth with the grain. This was done using successively finer grades of sandpaper. Some new unfinished wood is very rough and will require extra work.

Since we used a penetrating finish, a sealer coat was not necessary. However, most other types of finish (see chart) required that the wood first be sealed with a coat of final finish thinned with turpentine or a commercial lacquer-based sealer.

The finish we used was applied liberally with a brush. More was added to areas that soaked it up. After 30 minutes we wiped off the excess with a cloth, smoothed the wood with 3/0 steel wool, and applied another coat for 30 minutes. The excess was again removed and the surface was smoothed. Next day two thin coats of butcher's wax were applied on the surface, left for 15 minutes and buffed.

1. At the Woodsmith's Studio, Jarrett Strawn uses a block with 150 finishing paper to give our desk a final sanding.

2. Penetrating resin is applied liberally to the surface. Any spots that drink up the finish get an extra dose.

3. Any penetrating resin not soaked into the wood after 30 minutes is wiped off with a clean, natural-fiber cloth.

4. The surface is carefully rubbed with 3/0 steel wool to smooth the wood. Then another coat of finish is applied.

way you must make a few decisions. When working with older furniture, you must first decide whether to restore or remove the old finish. If it is removed, you can bleach the bare surface to make it lighter. After that, the surface can be treated in much the same way as new, unfinished furniture. Sanding, staining, sealing and filling are all possible steps that lead to applying the final finish.

Here's how to strip off the old (you may find a beautiful hardwood underneath that paint) and give your furniture a handsome and protective finish.

Why do extra work?

While most of us don't have to worry about devaluing a precious antique by removing the original finish, sometimes it simply isn't necessary to remove a slightly damaged one.

Original transparent finishes can be considered sound if they are clear so the wood pattern can be seen, and a coin or fingernail doesn't scrape down to the bare wood when run across the surface. Merely clean the finish with a cloth slightly dampened in mild soap and lukewarm water, dry, then rewax or polish.

You can restore dull, transparent finishes with a single coat of the *same* finish originally used. Remove the wax with water and detergent, dry, sand lightly and apply the finish.

Here are some clues to detect the type of finish: Lacquer has been used on most *mass-produced* American furniture in recent years; shellac could well be on *old furniture* that still has its original finish; and varnish has been used most often in past years by *home craftsmen.*

If paint finishes are chipped, but not cracking or flaking off, they can be painted over. Clean with turpentine, feather out any chipped paint, and degloss the paint with fine sandpaper. Then you're ready to repaint.

Stripping the old finish

If the old finish can't be preserved, you can apply a stripper to remove it, then start from scratch. The easiest type of stripper to use is in a semi-paste, jelly-like form (Zip Strip, Strip-ease, Wonder-Paste). Some wash off with water and others with mineral spirits. You'll need a natural bristle paintbrush (chemicals in the strippers can soften synthetic bristles), a paint scraper or putty knife for softwoods, 2/0 coarse steel wool, rubber gloves, a couple of coffee cans, rags and mineral spirits or water for cleanup.

First read the directions on the can. When you're ready, just brush the stripper on liberally and allow it to soften the finish. After waiting for 10 or 15 minutes, you should find it soft enough to scrape off with the putty knife or steel wool and be dumped into the coffee can. Wash off the whole piece with water or mineral spirits, whichever is called for in the directions.

On ornate pieces with intricate carvings and turnings, the stripping process can be rather time-consuming. But if you find a beautiful wood beneath the layers of paint, it can be well worth the effort.

Bleaching to remove color

Commercial bleaches to reduce pigment left by strippers, or to lighten the natural wood color, are available at paint and hardware stores. Use a natural bristle brush to apply the bleach evenly to the clean wood surface. The bleach will raise the grain and it will be necessary to sand after the bleach has dried.

Preparing the surface

After removing the old finish, you can repair surface dents, scratches

(Please turn to page 130)

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ROCKING CHAIR

When we got this decorative rocking chair from a second hand store, it was covered with countless coats of paint. In fact, stripping was a two-can job. We used Bix stripper, a jelly-like substance that stays on vertical surfaces better than liquid strippers. This was applied liberally with a brush, allowed to soften the paint (about 15 minutes in this case), then carefully scraped off with a putty knife so as not to damage the softened wood. A toothbrush and coarse No. 2 steel wool were also used to remove the stripper on the turnings and in other tight spots.

We uncovered a lovely hickory chair with a pine seat and delicate carvings on the back. Hickory is a very porous wood, and the paint remained in the pores. The chair could have been bleached to remove the pigment. But since the paint in the pores was a reddish brown and the chair was an indefinable country style, we let the light paint speckling blend in to look rustic.

The next day a mahogany oil stain was applied to the chair with a rag. The carvings on the chair back were kept lighter to accent them. The third day the first of three polyurethane coats was given.

1. The rocking chair was covered with many coats of paint. But its excellent condition otherwise made it good project.

2. Stripper and paint are scraped off the chair with special care to avoid any damage to the softened wood.

3. Mahogany oil stain is applied with a clean, natural-fiber cloth. Any excess is wiped off the wood.

4. The first coat of polyurethane finish is brushed on the rocking chair with careful strokes to cover surface evenly.

FINAL FINISH CHART

Types	What they do	How to use them
Shellac	A past hero, shellac is not used much today because it isn't very water-resistant and is soluble in alcohol. But it *is* easy to apply and dries quickly. Since shellac has such a short shelf life, it's best to buy shellac flakes and dissolve them in denatured alcohol as needed. A 3-lb. cut (3 lbs. of flakes per gallon of alcohol) is a good ratio.	Thin first two shellac coats to 2 parts denatured alcohol and 5 parts 3-lb. cut shellac. Apply final coat full strength. Rub with 3/0 steel wool and clean with a tack rag after first coat has dried fully—at least 3 hours. Finishing takes patience. Apply 3 more coats, rubbing between coats with steel wool; then clean and wax. Note: Shellac clouds in high humidity, so work in a dry place.
Lacquer	Lacquer is a fast-drying, very clear finish. It wears longer than shellac and is more water-resistant. However, it can crack if exposed to extreme temperature changes.	Since lacquer is so quick drying, you'll be wise to use spray equipment. Some lacquers, such as Deft, come in a spray can. You can also buy brush-on lacquers with drying retardants for a better chance at a smooth finish. When lacquering bare wood, thin the first coat to seal the wood and apply generously until wood has had time to soak it up. After it dries, rub with 3/0 steel wool and clean. Apply full strength and let dry 2 hours or more before using steel wool. Recoat, let dry 24 hours and rub.
Varnish and polyurethane	Super polyurethanes give wood a very hard finish that withstands water, alcohol and mild scratches. Regular oil-based varnish, not quite as hearty, is longer-drying. Neither is easy to apply; both pick up dust while drying—which takes fairly long. Polyurethane finish comes in satin or gloss (Gloss Zar or Satin Zar, Minwax satin or gloss).	Polyurethane takes time to dry (at least 6 to 8 hours) and varnish takes longer, so plan to apply a coat daily for 3 days. But don't exceed 24-hour dry time between coats or urethane will harden completely, making other coats hard to apply. When brushing on urethane, thin first coat to seal the wood pores according to directions. Use 3/0 steel wool or fine sandpaper between coats. Polish final finish to the sheen you want.
Penetrating resins	Easiest of finishes to apply, among most durable. Most are actually oil and resin mixture. As the name implies, they impregnate wood, fortify fibers. (Wood should not be sealed when this is used.) Some types have stain in finish (Flecto oil sealer). Another plus for penetrating resins: If wood is burned or scratched, rubbing with steel wool can repair it.	To apply, just pour it on the surface and smooth with a natural-fiber rag (purists often use a hand) to let wood absorb the moisture. Wipe up excess with a natural-fiber, lint-free cloth. Apply a second coat almost immediately if the wood soaks up the first. Let second coat dry—at least 36 hours to be sure—then cut the gloss with 3/0 steel wool. Apply more coats; dry and degloss each until the wood has an even tone.
Oil	A craftsman's finish for a special piece of furniture, a true oil finish is often preferred by professional finishers. Many have their own favorite recipes. One formula is *boiled* linseed oil and turpentine in a 3:1 down to a 1:1 ratio. Some antique finishers use refined beeswax dissolved in equal parts of boiled linseed oil and applied to the wood while the mixture is warm.	Saturate a natural-fiber rag in the oil mixture and rub thoroughly into one small area at a time until the whole surface is coated uniformly. When the wood will not absorb more oil, wipe off excess with hard-fiber cloth like denim. Wait two or three days, then apply another oil coat. After several weeks, apply a final coat. Oil once or twice yearly.
Wax	Paste wax can be used as a primary finisher *if* the wood has been sealed with white shellac or other sealer.	Apply a thin, even coat with steel wool or a soft cloth. After 5 to 15 minutes, buff with a clean cloth and repeat.
Paint	A fantastic range of paint colors is available—or you can brew your own. Spray lacquers are good for special pieces like wicker, wrought iron or carved furniture. Alkyd "oil base" enamels are the most durable furniture paints. Untreated wood should have a sealer coat of thinned shellac. All furniture should have a base coat.	After smoothing all surfaces, brush on an undercoat as evenly as possible. Let it dry and smooth it with fine sandpaper. Next, apply a half-and-half mixture of enamel and undercoating (made by the same manufacturer), let dry, sand and clean. Apply the final enamel coating. It should cure—this can take up to two weeks—before rubbing with a mixture of FFF pumice and water or oil.

HANDMADE WITH CARE

Build a loom for weaving fun

Our PM loom was perfect for weaving the wall hanging above. Here, the weaver beats down the yarn with a tapestry beater to completely cover the warp ends. Color, texture and pattern all play a part in our handsome hanging.

Here are loom plans and weaving directions for an easy family project.

by Elma and Willard Waltner

You can build this frame loom from ¾-in. hardwood stock for a total cost of about $10. Besides wall hangings, it can be used to weave throw rugs, tote bags or whatever you can create. Experimenting is half the fun.

We call it a lap loom. With the back part resting on the table, the front end rests in your lap—quite a comfortable working position. You can use it to weave pieces up to 20-in. wide. It can be strung for tapestry-type weaving where the warp (the threads running lengthwise through which the filling threads are woven) is completely hidden as it is

PM photo: Harry Hartman

in our wall hanging. It can also be strung in the regular way where the warp is part of the color scheme and design.

To become familiar with the various parts of the loom see the loom frame diagram below. The shuttle which carries the filling threads as they are woven through the warp can be formed to the dimensions in the diagram or purchased inexpensively. We used four shuttles to make the wall hanging.

Constructing the frame

Cut all of the pieces for the loom frame from ¾-in. hardwood stock. Either birch or maple would be a good choice.

Begin by cutting the two side strips (Fig. A) to the dimensions given. Drill the dowel peg holes ½-in. deep into the bottoms of the strips as indicated. The 3-in.-long, ¼-in.-dia. dowel pegs are used for measuring the warp. Two serve as support legs when weaving. Make the dado cuts as indicated to accommodate the two cross braces; then cut the latter (Fig. B). Four 2¼-in. screw hooks hold the cloth beam in front and the warp beam in back. Turn in the hooks ½ in. from the ends of the side strips as shown in the loom frame diagram.

The take-up beams (front and rear) are used to tighten and loosen the warp threads. They are moved by ratchets.

Cut the rear take-up beam and the warp lock strip (Figs. C, D). Drill ¼-in.-dia. holes ½ in. deep into the take-up beam as indicated. Use dowel centers to locate positions for matching holes in the warp lock strip, and drill these 5/16 in. deep. Cut three pieces of ¼-in. dowel ¾ in. long. Glue them into the holes in the lock strip. Sand the protruding pegs and round the ends so they will slip in and out of the holes easily (Photo 1). The warp lock strip will press against the rear take-up beam to "lock" the warp threads in place.

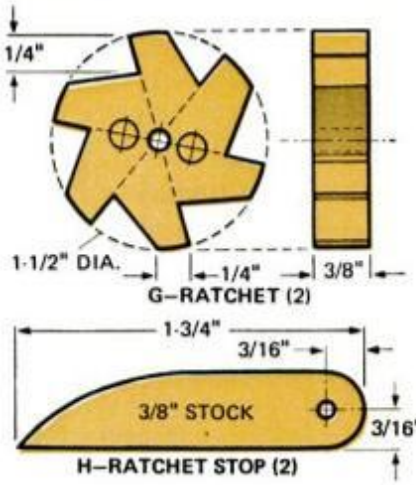
Cut the front take-up beam and tie bar (Figs. E, F). Later, the warp threads will be brought over the tie bar and tied to it. Web strapping material ⅝ in. wide is used to connect the tie bar to the front take-up beam. You can buy it at shoe repair or canvas shops. Three pieces, each 12 in. long, are needed. Cut the slots in the tie bar to let the webbing slip through. Seal the ends of the straps with white glue to keep them from fraying, then slip the straps through the slots. Nail the ends to one edge of the front take-up beam with carpet tacks (Photo 2).

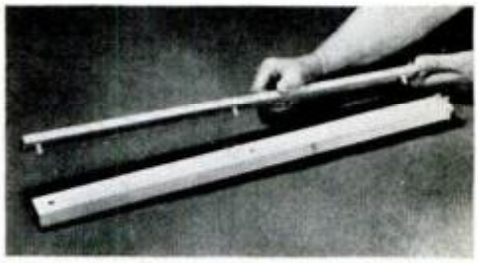
Ratchets and stops

The ratchets are wheels having notched teeth fastened to the ends of the front and rear take-up beams to turn the beams and help you keep proper tension in the warp threads. Saw the ratchets and the ratchet stops from ⅜-in. hardwood stock (Figs. G, H). The center hole in each ratchet is for a free-running axle. Mount the ratchets on the take-up beams by countersinking flathead screws (Photo 3).

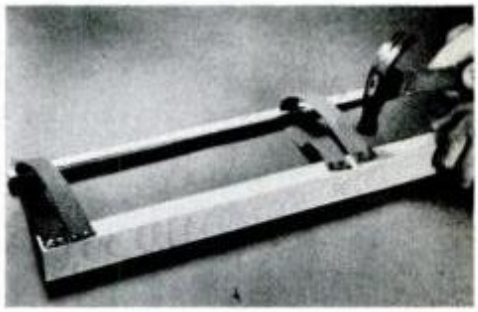
Heddle blocks

The heddle blocks hold the heddle, which in turn holds the warp threads. Cut the two heddle blocks

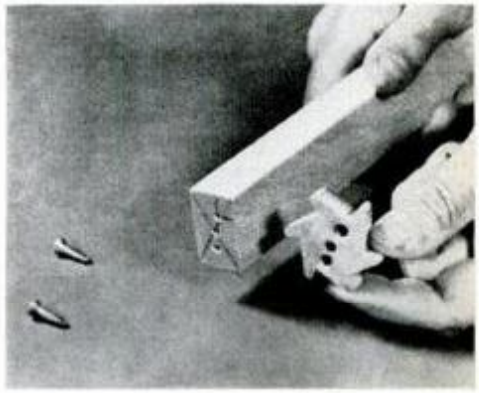




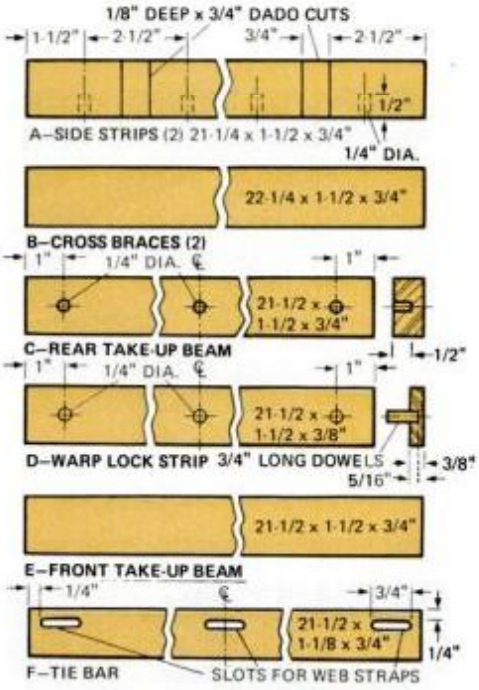
1 **The dowel pegs** in the warp lock strip fit into matching holes in the rear take-up beam.

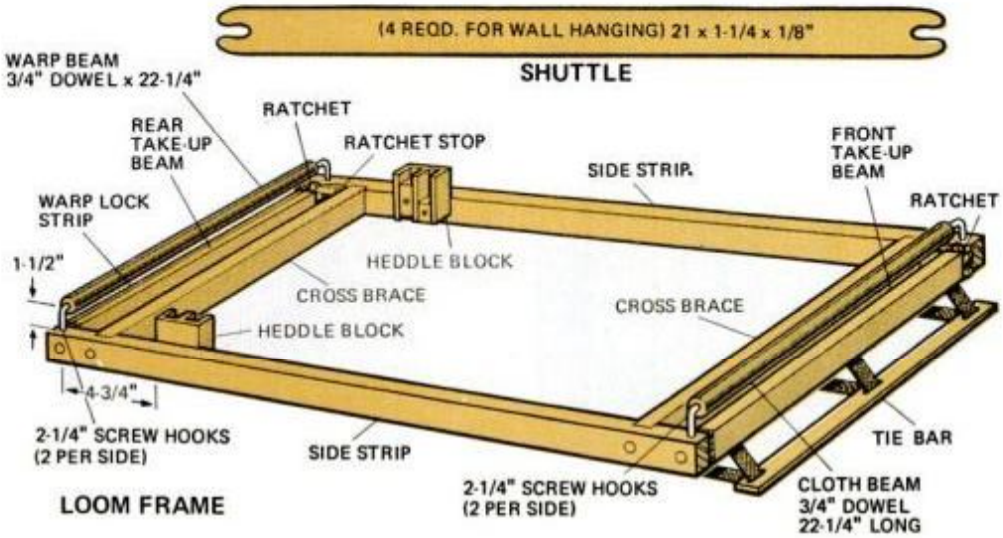


2 **Three pieces** of ⅝-in. web strapping are brought through the tie-bar slots and tacked to the front take-up beam.



3 **Two screws** are driven through predrilled holes in the ratchet and into the end of the take-up beam.





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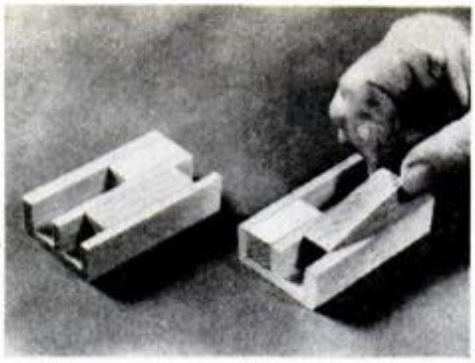
(Fig. I), making the dadoes indicated. Then cut the two plug pieces to fit the dadoes. Glue the larger plug into the left-hand slot, positioning it ½ in. from the top of the slot and ¼ in. from the slot bottom. Glue the smaller plug into its slot, flush with the bottom of the heddle block. Prepare the other heddle block the same way, *reversing the plug positions* so the blocks will line up with each other when on opposite sides of the frame. Secure the heddle blocks to the side strips by countersinking flathead screws (Photo 5).

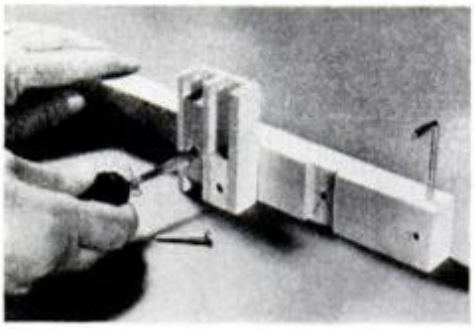
Assembling the frame

To assemble the loom, begin by fitting one end of each cross brace into the two dado cuts of one side strip and fasten with flathead screws countersunk from the outside of the strip. Drill holes into the center of the ends of the warp and cloth beam dowels and slip the dowels onto the heads of the screw hooks for partial assembly of the frame. Position the other side, slipping the screw hooks into the holes in the dowel ends and fitting the cross-brace ends into the dado cuts of the frame. The warp and cloth beam dowels should turn on the ends of the screw hooks (Photo 6).

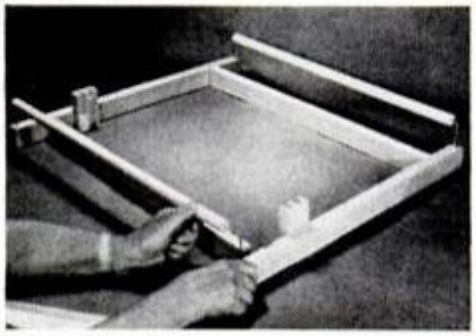
Set the rear take-up beam between ends of the frame, pass a roundhead screw through the hole at the end of the frame strip and drive it into the pilot hole through the ratchet and into the end of the beam. Do the same with the other side strip. Screws passing through the holes at the end of the frame act as axles for turning the beam. The front take-up beam and tie bar assembly are attached in the same manner. Screw on the ratchet stops. They swing freely on the screw shanks and drop into the ratchet teeth for locking to tighten the warp. Now the loom frame is basically completed and you are ready to make the heddle.



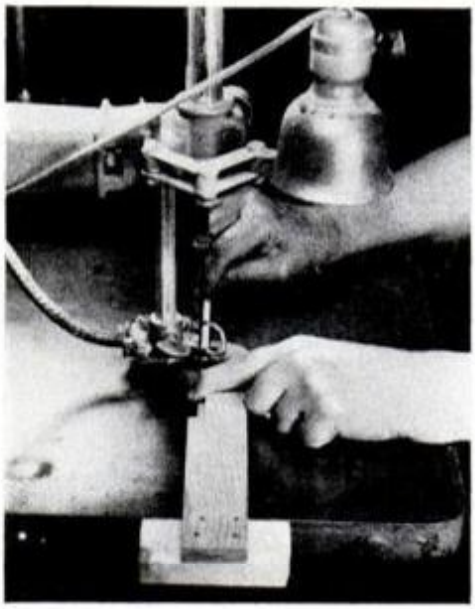
4 **Plugs to form the warping** and upshed positions are glued and fitted into the heddle block.



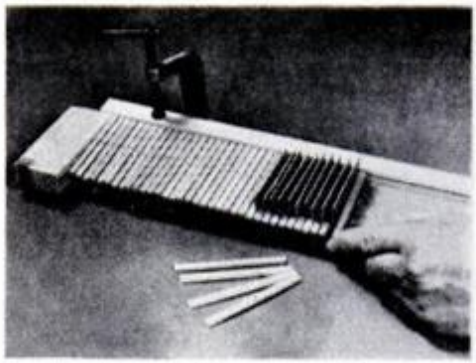
5 **A screw** is driven in the pilot holes running through the heddle blocks and into the side bars.



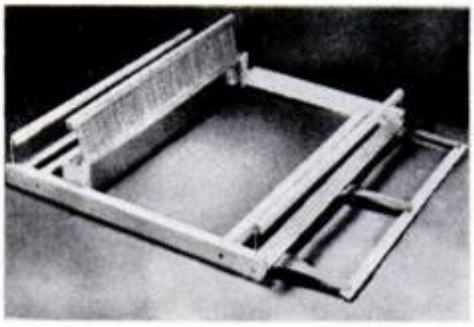
6 **A screw hook** is fitted into the warp beam. Cross braces will be attached for complete frame assembly.



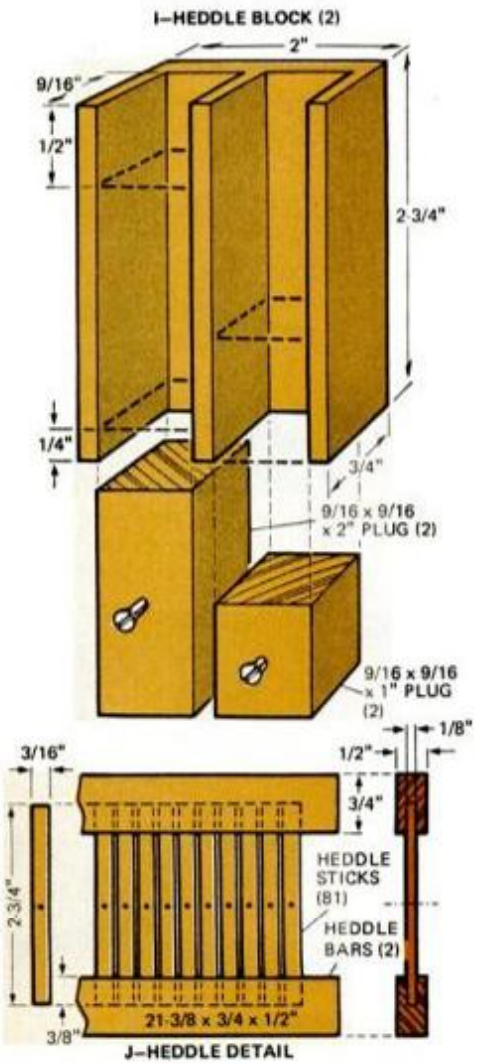
7 **A jig** makes cutting heddle strips to matching lengths much easier. One can also be used to drill holes at identical locations through the strips.



8 **Cardboard strips** are used to space the heddle sticks evenly in the dado of the heddle bar.



9 **The loom is assembled** and the heddle is placed in the up-shed position. For warping it is placed in the back slot.



Set the rear take-up beam between ends of the frame, pass a roundhead screw through the hole at the end of the frame strip and drive it into the pilot hole through the ratchet and into the end of the beam. Do the same with the other side strip. Screws passing through the holes at the end of the frame act as axles for turning the beam. The front take-up beam and tie bar assembly are attached in the same manner. Screw on the ratchet stops. They swing freely on the screw shanks and drop into the ratchet teeth for locking to tighten the warp. Now the loom frame is basically completed and you are ready to make the heddle.

Heddle

The heddle holds the warp threads in position. To make it cut the heddle bars 21⅜ x ¾ x ½ in. (Fig. J). Make dado cuts for the heddle sticks as indicated. The sticks (there are 81) are 2¾ in. long. However, they should first be cut longer, then carefully trimmed to size. Begin by cutting strips 3/16-in. wide and ⅛-in. thick, using a hollow ground blade in a circular saw for smooth edges. Use a fine blade in a jigsaw to cut the sticks to their 2¾-in. length. A jig for cutting (Photo 7) is a good automatic measuring device for accuracy. Drill a 1/16-in.-dia. hole through

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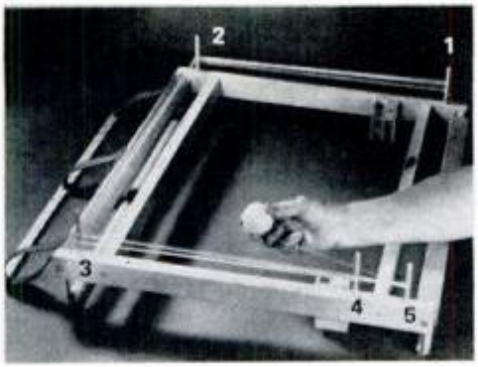
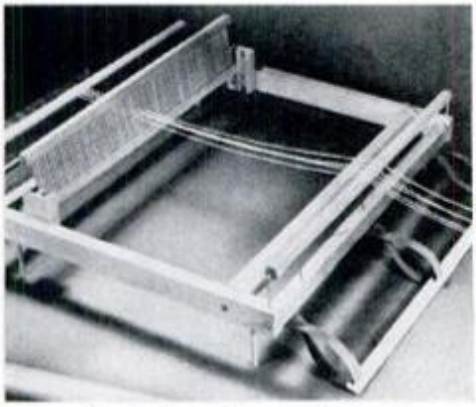
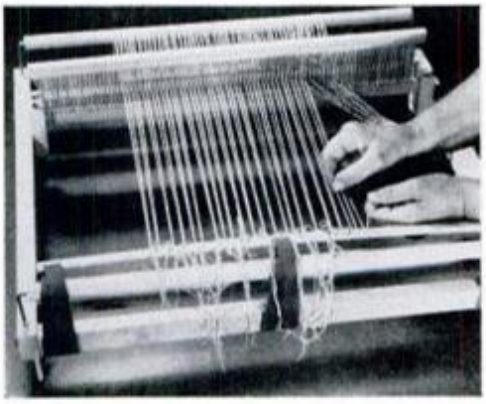


10 **The warp is made** by wrapping thread around pegs. This makes a 56-in. warp for over 30 in. of weaving.



11 **Beginning at the center,** one set of warp threads is passed through the heddle slits.



12 **When all slits and holes** needed are threaded, warp threads are tied to the tie bar in groups of four.

the center of each stick, again using a jig for accuracy.

Glue the ends of the sticks into the dado of one of the bars. Place the first strip ½ in. from the end of the bar. A number of spacer strips cut from heavy cardboard (approximately 1/16-in. thick) and slipped between the sticks as they are glued into the dado will assure even spacing and parallel sticks (Photo 8). Mark the center stick. After a few minutes the glue will be set enough that you can move the cardboard ahead in the gluing sequence. When all sticks are glued into the dado of one bar, spread glue into the dado of the other bar. Then, beginning at one end, work the free ends of the sticks into the second bar dado.

K—A SET OF WARP THREADS

Now the loom is completed and your weaving fun begins. Photo 9 shows the assembled loom with the heddle in the "up shed" position of the heddle block. In this position, it's ready for weaving.

Weaving the wall hanging

Our wall hanging was made by the tapestry form of weaving. In tapestry weaving, the weft threads are beaten down with a tapestry fork so they completely cover the warp, making a dense, rich surface. To make the wall hanging and other patterns, yarns of different colors pass part way across the loom, meeting in a tapestry slit join. This means there will be slits wherever two colors meet.

The secrets of successful weaving are keeping an even and tight tension on your warp yarns; keeping your selvedges straight (it's easy to let them pull in by not leaving enough yarn to beat down); and beating in the yarns evenly.

To weave the wall hanging pictured you will need the following yarns (symbols noted are those found on the wall hanging pattern; your yarn supplier can help you with unfamiliar terms): 350 yards white cotton warp yarn; two lightweight weaving yarns in different shades of blue (darkest blue, ×, and next darkest blue, ▲); one lightweight weaving yarn in light blue, +; one blue/brown Irish tweed yarn, □; two mohair yarns (a royal blue, **O**, and a light blue, •); one gray rya yarn; one brown thick and thin yarn; two thick boucles (one white, one in blue ombre stripes, ■). You will also need at least four shuttles and a tapestry beater (a table fork works well).

Start by measuring your warp as follows and stringing it to the loom.

Winding warp sets

Begin winding warp sets by first turning the loom upside down and inserting five pegs in the holes (Photo 10). Tie the white cotton warp yarn to Peg 1. Bring the thread from Peg 1 outside around Pegs 2 and 3, inside of Peg 4, outside and around Peg 5 in a figure eight, then outside the other pegs back and around Peg 1 for the first wrap. Continue wrapping in this way until there are 5 complete wraps—10 threads. This is a set. Wrap the free end of the thread around Peg 1 several times to keep it taut.

Use a short length of contrasting thread to tie the set at the cross over of the figure 8. Also tie the set between Pegs 2 and 3. Cut all the threads where they wrap around Peg 1. Remove the set, and hang it over the back of a chair. Make 17 more sets to warp the loom for the width of the wall hanging.

Stringing the loom

Turn the loom over again to string it. Mark the center hole of the heddle. Set the heddle in the warping position of the heddle block, the slot with the 1-in. plug. The proper warping and weaving position is with the rear take-up end farthest from the weaver, the cloth beam directly in front.

Slip the loop of one set of warp threads over the hand (Fig. K). Remove the contrasting tie thread. Lift the top loop off your hand and pull the double warping thread from the set. Pass the loop through the heddle slit to the left of the marked heddle stick and pull the thread through until it is about 1 in. beyond the rear warp beam (Photo 11). A steel crochet hook, size 6 or smaller, can be used to pull threads through.

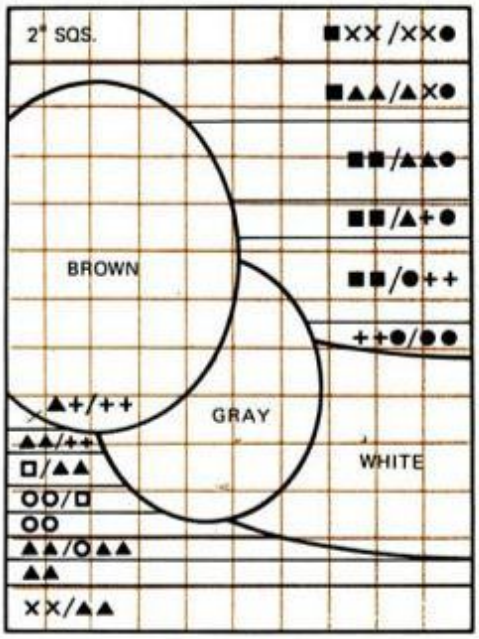


Fig. L. Fill shuttles with the number of strands and colors noted. Where there's a slash, fill two shuttles, one for each side, and weave every other row alternating shuttles. For colors, × denotes darkest blue; ▲, next darkest blue; **O**, royal blue mohair; □, blue/brown tweed; +, light blue; •, light blue mohair; ■, ombre boucle. Use one strand on others.

Continue lifting the threads off your hand and threading through the slits to the left until the set is used. Beginning with the first one threaded, slip the loops over the lock strip which has been removed from the back take-up beam, work the loop to the center of the strip and slip on the others in sequence. This will keep the threads from slipping back out of the slits as you warp.

Place a second set of threads over your hand and continue as before, this time working to the right of the center. Continue warping, alternating the side of threading with each set until all threads are used, with an equal number of threads on each side of the center. Move to the opposite end of the loom, spread the threads evenly along the lock strip, being sure that none crosses over another. Slip the pegs of the lock strip into the corresponding holes of the take-up beam to hold the threads in place.

Have someone help wind the warp threads onto the take-up beam. Any tangles in front of the heddle can be combed out with your fingers. Separate the warp threads into two groups and grasp one with each hand, being sure the tension is even on all threads. Your helper can slowly turn the warp take-up beam to wind the threads while you maintain a firm grasp and even tension on all threads in front of the heddle. Leave enough length of thread unwound to tie to the cloth beam tie bar. You're ready to thread the holes in the heddle.

Threading the heddle

Beginning at the right side, pick up two threads running through the first slit. Pull one thread back through the slit but hold onto the other to keep it in the slit. Thread the free warp thread through the hole just to the left of the slit it was in. Continue rethreading one thread of each group of two into the holes to the left of each slit until all holes and slits are filled.

Starting at the left, pick up the first four threads and bring them towards you in a straight line. Bring them over the tie bar, around and up the back, separating them into

(Please turn to page 136)

Материал предоставлен архивом журнала

Easy-to-build garage space-saver

Put an end to clutter in your garage with a storage platform. You can build it level with the top of the wall or a few feet down for extra storage. Either is a low-cost way to add "floor space."

This simple framing system offers extra 'floor area'

Has your garage gradually turned into just a storage barn? Well, here's an easy way to add enough storage space so you can clear an area to park the car. This project requires only minimal carpentry experience, no special tools, and all materials are stock items.

Plan for materials

Count the studs along the wall where your platform will be located. For every two studs you'll need one length of 2x6 for the floor joist, one 2x4 upright to connect the joist to the rafter, two ½-in. plywood gusset plates (figure about 3½ x 10 in. for each) to attach the upright to the rafter, and ⅜ x 4-in. bolts with washers.

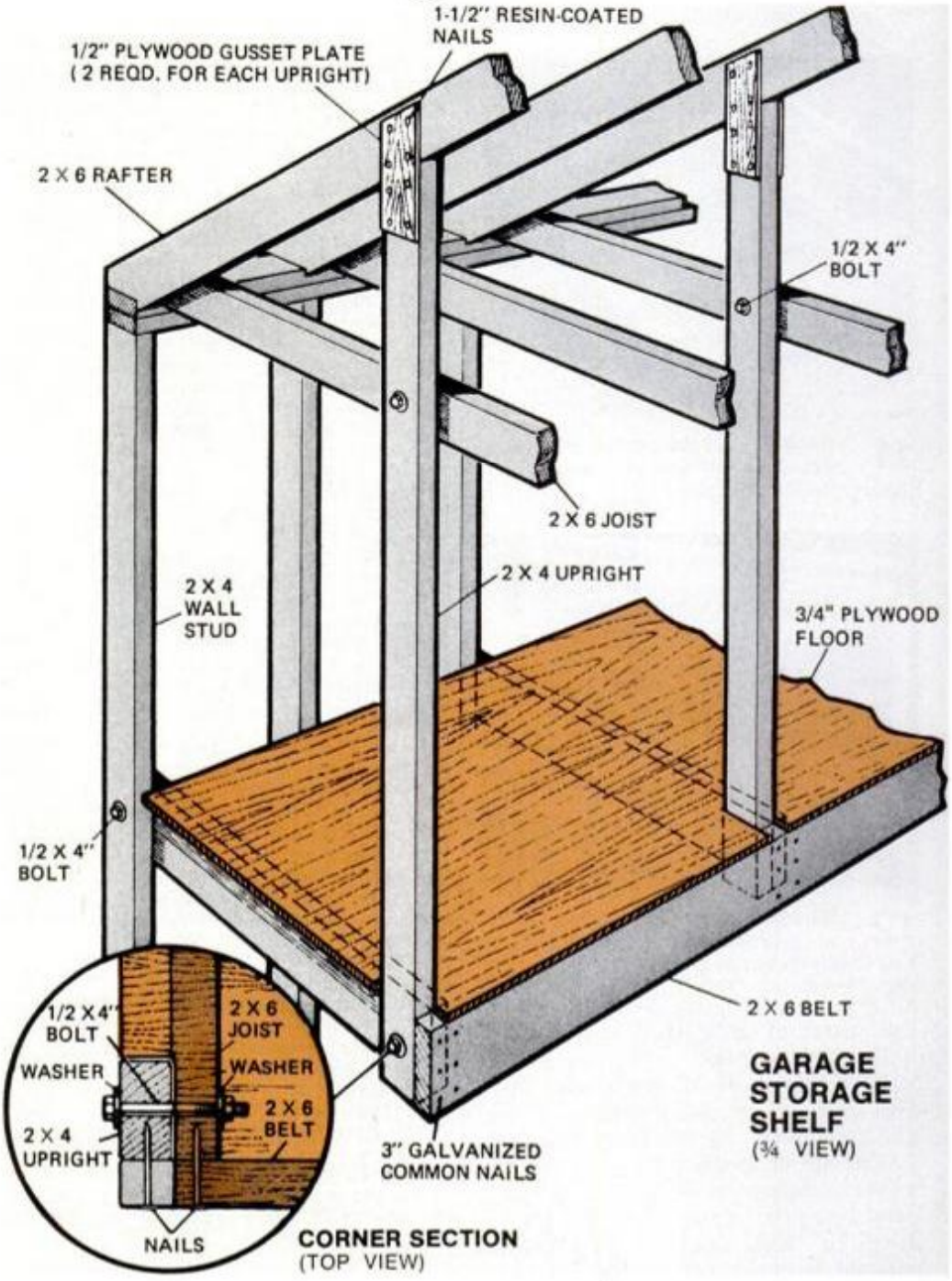
Once you've picked the location, mark a level line across the wall studs where the 2x6s connect. Then measure 4 ft. along each sidewall to allow for the plywood platform. Using a level, carry this mark up the wall until you reach the rafter. **Tip:** If you make careful measurements along the outside walls, you can mark all the rafters and studs accurately by snapping a chalkline held between your measured marks.

Here's how to figure the right lengths for the joists and uprights. For the joists you have to allow 3½ in. for bolting to the wall stud, plus 4-ft. under the plywood platform, less 1½ in. under the platform for the run of the 2x6 belt. Total length: 50 in. The length of the uprights will depend on where you mount the platform. Measure from your mark on the rafter to the bottom of the 2x6 joist and remember to allow for the angle cut where the upright and the rafter meet. The only other piece of framing you'll need is a single length of 2x6 for the belt. It stiffens the assembly and supports the outside edge of the plywood between the joists.

Building the platform

After cutting your materials to the proper lengths, attach the joists to the wall studs. **Tip:** Tack the joist in position and clamp it. Then drill through both pieces (the hole alignment is automatically correct) and install the bolt. This procedure can be used at every bolted joint.

Make the angle cut on your uprights and then nail the gusset plates to them. Spot a few nails on the free ends of the plates. This way, as you raise the upright to your mark, the plates sandwich the rafter and you can lock the joint easily. A coat of a preservative like Woodlife will help keep the platform in good shape. ★★★



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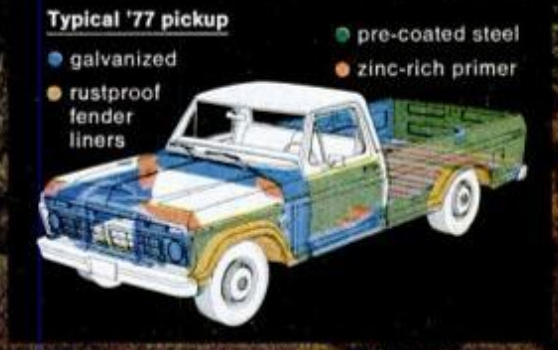
The tough ones get tougher. '77 Ford pickups.

You know Ford pickups. They're the ones with exclusive Twin-I-Beam, all-welded Styleside box—and a great record for durability. Now they're built even tougher.

New high-efficiency V-8's

New 351 and 400 V-8 options—designed for extra reliability.



New rust protection

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93 out of 100 of all Ford trucks registered over the last 12 years are still on the job.

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McCREARY
ROAD STAR 60

This series 60 Road Star is a big, good looking tire with raised white letters and checkered flags. It has two fiber glass belts and two polyester cord plies for good handling. Tread has 9 running ribs for long mileage plus over 2000 sipes for tremendous traction.

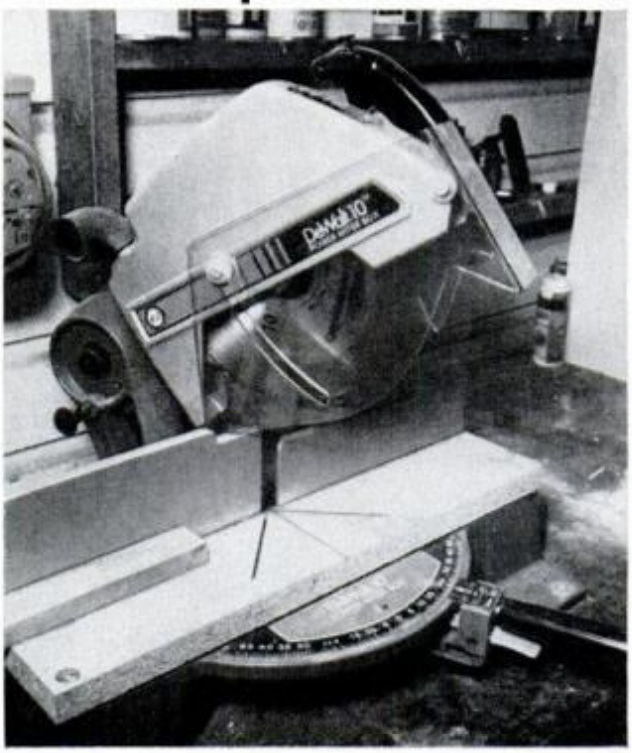
McCREARY
ROAD STAR 70

This series 70 Road Star has all the attractive features and construction of the Road Star 60. In addition McCreary offers radial, belted/bias and bias ply tires. We also manufacture tires for vans, recreational vehicles and light and heavy trucks.

McCREARY
Tire & Rubber Company
Indiana, PA 15701
QUALITY MANUFACTURER SINCE 1915

PM TOOL TEST

DeWalt's power miterbox



Specifications
Motor: 10.5 amp., 1.5 hp
Table: 4 x 21¼"
Weight: 34.5 lbs.
Arbor: ⅝" dia.
Blade: 10" dia.
Speed: 5500 rpm
Height capacity: 3⅝"
Width capacity: 4¼"
Price: $239.95

Special features
One-hand power safety
Auto-electric brake
Clear blade guard
Rear sawdust ejection
Miter to 47° each side
Gear-driven motor
¼° vernier scale

DeWalt's 10-in. power miterbox is a specialized tool. You can adjust the blade from 47° right to 47° left on a vernier scale that's marked off in ¼° increments.

The scale reaches to 47° at each end to allow mitering out-of-square corners. This amounts to an easy-to-use, powered mitering system with accurate and versatile adjustments. But don't overlook the 0° setting. The 10-in. blade with straight down cutting action has the capacity to crosscut 2x4s. So the miterbox is also an effective cutoff saw. The tool is portable but can be bolted to a benchtop through its metal base.

I found the tool has more than adequate power for cutting up to its capacity. The blade chatters somewhat as it starts up so you have to wait about two seconds for the full rpm level before cutting.

The feature that impressed me the most is the trigger lockout button. You can't accidentally start up the saw unless it's pushed down and the convenient location makes it easy to depress as you squeeze the trigger. You can remove it when you're done working to prevent unsupervised operation.—*Mike McClintock, Home and Shop Editor*

Release the pivot grip lever to swing the saw to five positive stops: 0°, 22½° and 45° right and left. Twist the handle to lock settings in between.

A safety release button is built into the handle. You can't depress the trigger unless this button is down. The button is removable to effectively lock the saw when you're not around.

Материал защищенный авторским правом

Henry Morgan says:

"THE APPLIANCE REPAIR FIELD COULD SURE USE SOME GOOD MEN, NOW."

If you've seen this well-aged comic on television, you know I'm not in the business of fixing appliances. So what am I doing in an ad for an appliance repair course? It's simple: I got tired of laying out a sockful of money every time something went wrong around the house. Then I came across an NRI ad and I thought, "Why not? I've spent a fortune on repairmen . . . if I'm too stupid to fix a toaster, this is the way to find out."

So I took the course and now I can fix my own appliances and I can even make money out of it if I want to. As a matter of fact, there's enough money in fixing these things, I'm tempted to quit show business and go straight.

Think I'm kidding about the money? Just check out the receipts on your last repair bills. And then ask anybody if they know a good reliable repairman. You'll find they're scarcer than doctor who make house calls. If there ever was a field crying for good men, this is it. Opportunity is knocking louder than my car's engine, and it could be knocking for you.

If you've ever toyed with the idea of making it on your own, with your own repair business . . . NRI has a low-cost, home study plan that really makes sense. You can hang in there with your present job while you're learning; and you'll find NRI's course is quick and easy.

Let's say you have trouble just plugging in your electric shaver. You'd better start with the basics . . . and the NRI course starts right there. First, they tell you what electricity is, and you can't get any more basic than that. They take you by the hand, step by step, as fast or as slow as you want to go. If you get an attack of the stupids, there's always an NRI expert waiting to give you a hand. They do everything but turn the pages for you.

Like I say, I took the course and it turned out to be even better than they said it would be. Sure they pay me for writing this ad, but it ain't much, believe me. I could make more in a month by fixing things for the neighbors . . . and I'm not kidding. It's just that I believe in seeing guys make it on their own. If you follow the simple texts and the big pictures, you can be a technician in no time. They even send you a professional appliance tester with the course.

You don't have to stop with toasters and irons. They'll even show you how to repair air conditioners, refrigeration units, commercial appliances and power tools. That's where the big money is.

Take Henry's advice and send in the coupon. It's nice to find out you've got some hidden talents. And you'll save a bundle . . . or make it . . . or both.

Send For This Free Full-Color Book and See What NRI Can Do For You.

Henry Morgan

Henry Morgan

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Washington, D.C. 20016

Send me your free book in Professional Appliance Servicing. I understand there is no obligation, and no salesman will call.

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☐ Check for details.

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Model 120
Solid ¾" Black Walnut
74" x 16¾" x 10"

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MOST POPULAR MODEL 120-K

DO-IT-YOURSELF CASE KIT

SOLID 3/4" BLACK WALNUT

104.50 FACTORY DIRECT SALE PRICE

When purchased with movement (extra). Or, case kit alone $114.50. Reg. $149.50.

Build this beautiful grandfather clock, complete with Westminster chiming movement-Tempus Fugit Dial, for just $219.00. Add $15.00 for Moving Moon Dial (as shown). Compare your finished clock with those retailing at $850.00 and more.

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Now you, like our thousands of satisfied customers, can build and enjoy your own beautiful grandfather clock for a fraction of what it would cost retail. Emperor Clock Company, the world's leading and best-known manufacturer of grandfather clocks, will save you hundreds. Because, at Emperor we buy raw lumber in tremendous quantities at lower prices and pass the savings on to you. Plus, we own and operate one of the largest, most efficient woodworking plants of its kind in the country.

Emperor's classic Model 120-K do-it-yourself case kit in solid ¾" kiln-dried black walnut is now on sale for just $104.50 . . . $45.00 below our already low factory direct price. Compare its features to grandfather clocks costing four times as much! It has four full-turned hood columns, divided swan neck with decorative finial, deep-carved moldings, full-length waist door, built-in floor levelers, deluxe brass-finished hardware and more.

IT'S EASY TO BUILD AN EMPEROR GRANDFATHER CLOCK!

There's no guesswork involved with an Emperor grandfather clock case kit. For accurate and easy assembly, each kit piece is pre-cut and sanded smooth on both sides. All miters pre-cut at no extra charge. (For those who prefer, kits may be ordered unmitered.) Divided swan neck and finial, waist and dial face doors, dial frame and basefront are pre-assembled. Complete, illustrated, easy-to-read assembly instructions included. No woodworking experience or special tools necessary. Each piece may be reordered separately.

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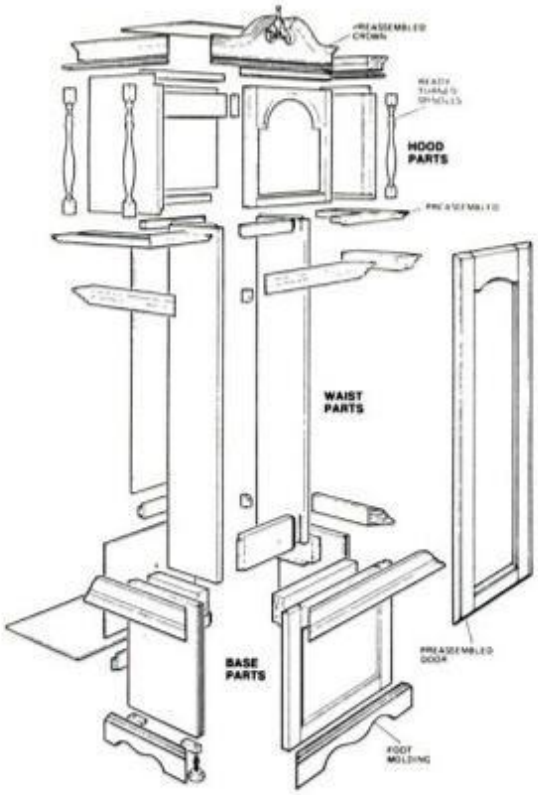
EMPEROR MOVEMENTS AND DIALS FOR MODEL 120-K

Made in West Germany of Solid Brass



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Emperor Model 100-M movements, manufactured by a fourth generation of West German clocksmiths, are made to our rigid specifications from the highest quality solid brass, with pinions of hardened steel. Fully assembled movements include weights, solid brass weight shells, brass bob, pendulum and chimes.

Model 100-M movements have two sets of musically-tuned rods. One set sounds the historic Westminster chimes: four notes on the quarter-hour, eight on the half-hour, twelve on the three-quarter-hour and sixteen on the hour. The other set sounds a Big Ben tone on the hour.

Emperor dials are also manufactured in West Germany by a renowned dial-making firm, famous for their solid brass craftsmanship. There are two dial versions of the 100-M movement: Tempus Fugit (Time Flies) and Moving Moon with classic lunar calendar. Both are solid brass and brush-finished with black serpentine hands. Antiqued filigree spandrels frame the dial ring which has black Roman numerals.

Because each movement bears the Emperor name, it is thoroughly tested in our quality control room before it is shipped to you. We proudly stand behind our name 100%. Emperor West German movements and dials are known and valued everywhere for their lasting accuracy and dependability. Don't risk buying anything less.

Installation and adjustment is a simple operation following the step-by-step instructions supplied.

EIGHT DAY WEIGHT DRIVEN WESTMINSTER CHIMES

A. 100-M Movement with Tempus Fugit Dial $114.50

B. 100-M Movement with Moving Moon Dial $129.50

MOVEMENT CARRIES A ONE YEAR WARRANTY

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	Model 120-K Solid ¾" Black Walnut Do-It -Yourself Case Kit with purchase of either movement (priced separately) below	49	$149.50	**$104.50**	
	Model 120-K Solid ¾" Black Walnut Do-It-Yourself Case Kit without purchase of movement (priced separately) below	49	$149.50	**$114.50**	
	Model 120-A Solid ¾" Black Walnut completely finished clock with Tempus Fugit Dial, Westminster Chimes	95	$399.50		
	Model 120-A Solid ¾" Black Walnut completely finished clock with Moving Moon Dial, Westminster Chimes	95	$414.50		
	Model 100-M Movement complete with Tempus Fugit Dial, Westminster Chimes for Model 120-K	33	$114.50		
	Model 100-M Movement complete with Moving Moon Dial, Westminster Chimes for Model 120-K	33	$129.50		

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The Celestron 8. Eight full inches of aperture make this portable observatory in a suitcase the amateur's favorite for studying the surface features of Mars, the subdivided rings of Saturn, the ever-changing belt structure of Jupiter, the intricate filamentary detail of deep-sky nebulae, the central regions of globular clusters at up to 500X. Also the ultimate terrestrial telescope or telephoto! (Size swung down: 9″ x 12″ x 22″, Wt.: 23 lbs., **$790**)

The Celestron 14. The appeal of this prestigious, fully electric dome instrument is enhanced by a unique design that also makes it the world's largest one-man-portable. Demount and load it into your compact car in five minutes! Within range of the Celestron 14, at up to 850X, are the delicate contrast levels of the diffuse and planetary nebulae, the spirals of remote galaxies, and the quasars. (Size swung down: 18″ x 22″ x 44″, Wt.: 108 lbs., $3,750)

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World's Leading Manufacturer of Compact-Portable Telescopes

WORLD'S OUTBOARD CHAMPION

(Continued from page 97)

at a "moderate" 6500 rpm as I got the feel of the boat.

Steering was firm but torque minimal, and the hull took turns with a remarkable stability—no sensation of tricks or a tendency to break loose or trip. My chase boat reported that at my conservative trim setting the planing angle looked good, so on downwind runs away from the gusts I pushed down on the right-foot accelerator and the hull skimmed forward as the rpm touched 8200—about 120 mph. The hull was a flying machine; it was easy to see why Mercury had contracted Angelo Molinari for all his handbuilt hulls.

Blow-over at start of a race at Miami catches Fountain (center) in spectacular crash that flipped three boats at once.

The techniques

It takes more than a fast boat to win, so I asked Reggie about the other tricks that keep his remarkable machine out in front. Precise starts come with practice, and are crucial, he noted. A slower boat that can accelerate into the first corner may force a faster one into a wider slot and hold him off until the finish. Lying behind a lead boat and "drafting" won't work in a race with a surfacing prop throwing a roostertail astern while the lead boat takes the clean water. Cutting in too close can lead to disaster; if one boat starts to kite and flip it can blow over any others nearby. Staying in top condition, Reggie believes, has helped keep him from serious injury from some bad speed-flips.

Reading water conditions ahead and feathering off speed to cross "rhythm water," judging planing angle while "riding the edge," studying other drivers and watching them with peripheral vision, carrying speed into a corner until the last second and then reaccelerating fast are among many special skills making a winner.

Learn them as well as Reggie Fountain has; use them to win every time, and you may make a factory team. Then drive outboards at speeds unheard of until a year or so ago and possibly you can challenge a champ. That's all there is to it. ★★★

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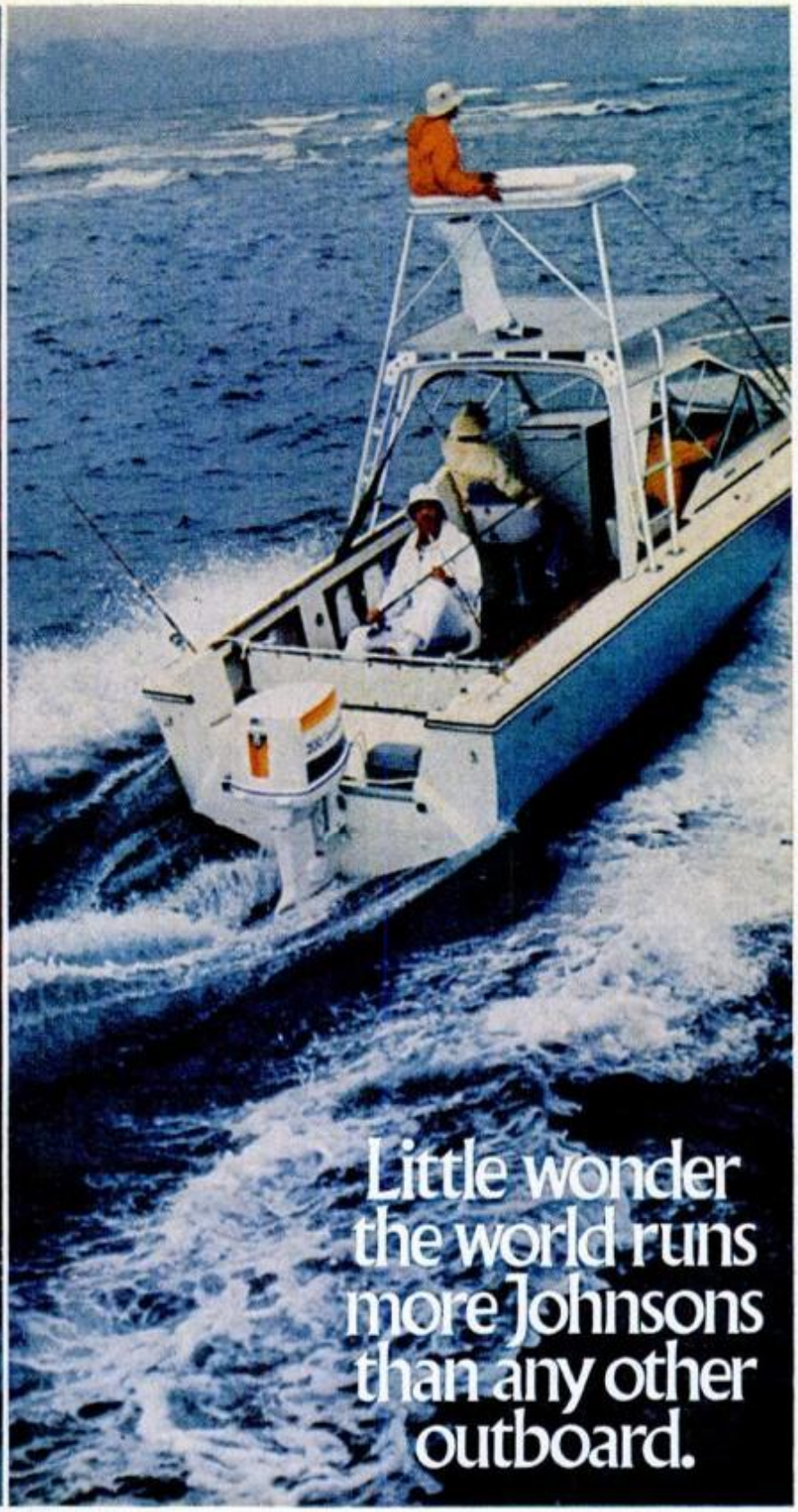
Johnson's V-6s. You're looking at the world's most powerful outboards.



Little wonder the world runs more Johnsons than any other outboard.

Last year, our 200 hp V-6 was a giant step forward in outboard performance for big offshore cruisers and muscle boats. So this year we've added a 175 hp version for more boaters to step up to V-6 performance.

Performance starts with a full 90° V-6 design that provides a barrel-chested 149.4 cubic inches. So the engine gives you outstanding thrust for getting on plane fast... doesn't have to breathe hard to let you cruise faster at a fuel-efficient, part-throttle setting than smaller motors pushing comparable boats at full speed. And at cruise throttle, both of our V-6s give surprisingly good fuel economy.

Though powered like tigers, our V-6s handle like pussy cats. Built-in power Trim'N'Tilt gives you finger-tip control of motor tilt for launching/beaching and of boat trim while running. And our accessory remote single-lever Command Center™ gives you one-hand control of power from start-up to all-out.

If you "run away" to sea often, consider our V-6 versions with 25-inch, extra-long shafts for higher stern freeboard. But whichever Sea-Horse® motor you choose, you'll get a true "salt water" outboard—all Johnsons are built to resist corrosion inside and out. See them at your Johnson dealer, or write for free catalog. Johnson Outboards, Division Outboard Marine Corporation, 2732 Sea-Horse Dr., Waukegan, IL 60085.

Under Outboard Motors

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OUTBOARDS

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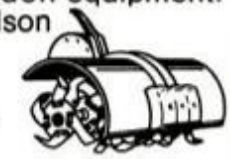
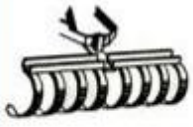
BIG POWER

And a good buy!

Looking for a rugged tractor at a reasonable price? Gilson dealers offer you any of four 16 hp models in hydrostatic, or gear drive, for hundreds of dollars less than competitive models. But don't let the low cost fool you . . . they're ruggedly built with an all welded contour frame from front to rear for rigid strength. The patented unitized engine/frame design adds structural strength and reduces vibration, helps keep the power train and attachment power drives in alignment. Choice of 22 attachments including side and rear discharge mowers and tiller attachments and a complete line of other yard and garden equipment. See your Gilson dealer or write for information.





Gilson

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Gilson Bros. Co.
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Plymouth, WI
53073

 (Continued from page 110)

and holes with wood putty or other filler. Then prepare the entire wood surface for the final finish.

Sanding: Begin sanding with the smallest grit, the finest paper, capable of smoothing the wood. For rough sanding on raw wood, begin with 80 to 100-grit aluminum oxide, open-coat abrasive paper. If the raw wood is already fairly smooth, begin with 120 to 220-grit aluminum oxide, open-coat paper. Between finish coats use 3/0 steel wool. You'll find that a tack rag to pick up the dust and wood particles is invaluable.

Staining: A matter of personal preference, staining is a cosmetic step not really necessary for protecting the wood. There are four main types of stains: oil, water, non-grain-raising and spirit.

Oil stains are most common for home use, although wood can take this stain unevenly. You can prevent uneven shading by applying a diluted sealer coat or diluted coat of the final finish (diluted by five parts of its solvent) before staining. Apply stain with a brush in even coats. Remove the excess with a cloth and be sure it's dry before proceeding.

Sealing: To prevent the final finish from being absorbed into the wood

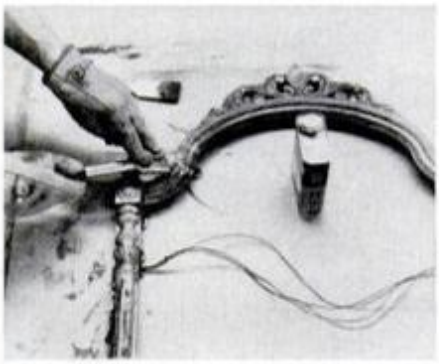
(Please turn to page 134)

MIRROR

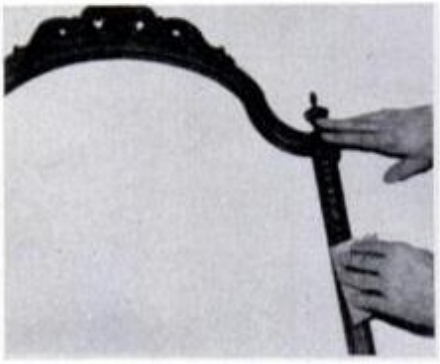
When we found the handsome old walnut mirror shown at the beginning of this article, it was painted a lackluster gold. Imperial Wonder-Paste, a jelly-like liquid, was used to strip the paint. Then we sanded the wood smooth with coarse, medium and fine grades of sandpaper.

Walnut is a porous wood, so we used a wood filler made by Mohawk to fill the pores. You add benzine to the paste until the mixture reaches a consistency of heavy cream. Then apply it with a cloth and allow to dry about five minutes (it will cloud slightly). Rub the excess filler off by working with and across the grain, and allow the wood to dry for 24 hours.

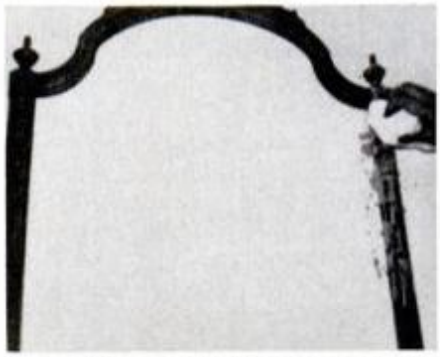
Next we applied "Qualasole," a padding lacquer finish with a cotton pad (hence the name "padding lacquer"). The pad is dipped in lacquer which is dispersed throughout the pad by a tap of the palm. The lacquer is padded on in short, quick strokes, working with the grain. It took 20 minutes drying time between the first three coats and two hours between the next two coats.



1. Stripper is applied to the frame by Kipp Gosewehr at John Harra Woodworking Studio to remove paint.



2. The wood is sanded with 120, 180 and 400-grit sandpaper to smooth the raised wood caused by stripping.



3. A mixture of filler paste and turpentine is applied to the mirror frame with a cloth. It clouds as it sets.

4. A pad of cotton cloth wrapped in cotton cloth held by rubber bands is used to apply padding lacquer.

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In more ways than one

What does success mean to you? The chance to learn and grow? A well-paying job? Serving your country? Making new friends? No matter how you define success, the Air Force offers you many ways to achieve it.

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If you're college-bound, the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) offers a variety of scholarships. The ROTC scholarships cover most costs and also provide a tax-free monthly allowance of $100.

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FURNITURE REFINISHING

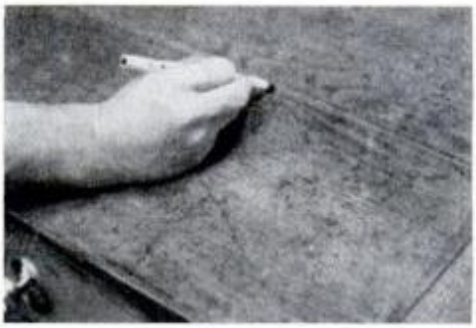
(Continued from page 130)

(except those penetrating finishes that should be absorbed), a sealer coat is applied to close the wood pores. Lacquer-based sealers are most commonly used. They are brushed on, allowed to dry, then lightly sanded.

Filling: Woods with coarse grain such as oak, walnut and mahogany require a filler, if you want a perfectly smooth finish. Fillers conceal pores so you can get a glass-like finish.

Now your piece is ready for the final finish. See page 117 for a chart of the final finishes you can choose and how to apply them. ★★★

You can steam out gouges and dents that later occur. Place a medium-hot iron over a damp cloth on the indented area.



Scratches that your finished piece receives can be treated with wax pencils available in wood colors.

After many years, the finish on your piece may need reviving. This dull finish was restored with Minwax Antique Oil.

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BUILD A LOOM FOR WEAVING FUN

(Continued from page 121)

two pairs of two threads each, one pair passing to the right, the other to the left of the set of four threads. Bring them up and tie into a square knot. Continue working towards the right, tying each group of four threads to the tie bar. Photo 12 shows the warping.

Next, lift the heddle out of the warp position of the heddle block and place it in the up-shed position in the heddle block to open the other shed. (For down-shed position move heddle directly in front of block.)

'Throwing' the shuttle

Wrap the colored yarn weft (filling) on the shuttle and begin to weave by passing or "throwing" the shuttle across the warp threads, and alternately placing the heddle in the up or down-shed position with each pass. The warp threads are tightened by turning the rear or front take-up beam, letting the ratchet stop fall into the ratchet teeth to lock in position. To loosen the warp when you're not weaving, turn one takeup beam just enough to allow the ratchet stop to be lifted and loosen the tension.

Begin work on your wall hanging by enlarging the pattern (Fig. L) to the full size (19½ x 26 in.) and place it underneath the loom to guide you in your weaving. Don't worry about following it precisely. Explore color combinations and shape variations as you go along and let your weaving become a one-of-a-kind creation.

You'll need a heading at the beginning of your weaving to space the warp yarns and make a surface to beat against. To do this, weave with rags for about an inch, beating them down straight and even against the bottom of the loom. Then switch to yarns.

Beating down the yarn

A lot of yarn gets beaten down in a tapestry, to cover the warp ends. Be sure to leave surplus yarn in each shed so your selvedges won't draw in, but not enough surplus so that parts of your weaving buckle.

The technique is to throw the shuttle across the shed and draw the yarn through diagonally, while one hand holds the yarn firmly at the selvedge. Starting at the selvedge the yarn is coming from, you'll pass the shuttle across the width of the loom. Then, starting at the same edge, beat the yarn down against the finished weaving. Excess yarn will slide across the loom and exit at the shuttle side. Check your selvedges often for straightness, and examine the weaving to see that warp is fully covered.

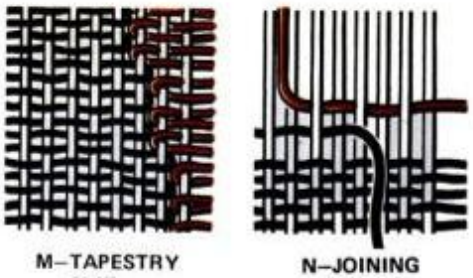
Begin with yarns by winding a double thickness of the darkest blue (×) onto a shuttle and pass or "throw" it across the loom, then beat it down. Change sheds and repeat, holding onto the selvedge edge where the yarn begins. Weave this color for several inches (the first inch will be turned under as a hem), then follow the pattern or mix your own colors. The second stripe, beginning on our pattern, involves weaving a row with the darkest blue, the next with the next lighter blue.

Joining yarns

You will need to join yarns whenever your shuttle runs dry, when you change colors, and when you are working tapestry slits (Fig. M). For changing colors or shuttles, leave a 5-in. tail on the old and new yarn ends. Join the new yarn so it overlaps with the old.

Continue weaving stripes straight across the loom until you get to the bottom of the white circle on your pattern. Then start using the tapestry slit technique (Fig. M), letting colors intersect in midloom to form the pattern.

For tapestry slits weave the first color across the shed to where you want it to stop. Weave the second color up to, but not intersecting, the first. Change sheds and turn each color around, making sure that no warp ends



M–TAPESTRY SLIT N–JOINING YARNS

Two ways yarn meets.

in the shed are uncovered. Slits are connected by moving one of the colors over an uncovered warp end. Try not to let slits get longer than half an inch before connecting them.

When you've woven 9 or 10 inches, loosen the take-up and warp beam ratchets. Cover the woven section with a sheet of wrapping paper and roll the weaving and paper forward under the take-up beam.

As you're finishing your piece, weave an extra inch of the last color for a hem. Place the heddle in warping position and keep tension tight. Cut four warp threads at the center of the loom, leaving them about 8 inches long. Pass them through the heddle and tie in an overhand knot close to the weaving surface. Do this across the loom, working alternately to left, and right of center. Unroll the weaving, remove the rags you wove in at the beginning, and repeat tying the threads.

Clip the ends to 1 or 2 inches, fold them and the extra inch of weaving under, and hem. Slip a dowel through the pocket at the top. Your tapestry is ready to hang. ★★★

BOOKS

The Shuttle-craft Book of American Hand-weaving; Atwater, Mary M., New York, N.Y., Macmillan 1956.

New Key to Weaving; Black, Mary E., Milwaukee, Wis., Bruce Publishing Co., 1957.

Hand-Loom Weaving; Christopher, F.J., Hackensack, N.J., Wehman Bros., 1961.

Contemporary Handweaving; Overman, Ruth, and Lula Smith, Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Press, 1958.

Handweaving; Plath, Iona, New York, N.Y. Scribner, 1964.

The Joy of Handweaving; Tod, Osma G., 2nd ed., Princeton, N.J., Van Nostrand, 1964.

Step-by-Step Weaving; Znamierowski, Nell, Racine, Wis., Western Publishing Company, Inc., 1967.

PERIODICALS

Craft Horizons, 16 East 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Handweaver and Craftsman, 220 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001.

Handweavers Guild of America, 339 North Steele Rd., West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

The Shuttle Craft Guild, 4499 Delta River Rd., Rt. 1, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

The Yarn Depot, Inc., 545 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102.

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Michigan at Adams, Chicago, Ill. 60603.

Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Beech and Penrose Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19126.

WEAVING SUPPLIES AND KITS

Beka Inc., 1648 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55105. Loom kits and supplies.

Lily Mills Co., Shelby, N.C. 28150. Loom kits and supplies.

Midway Ornamental Mfg. Co., 1708 State, Rt. 558, Salem, Ohio 44460. Spinning wheel kits.

School Products Co., Inc., 1201 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10001. General supplies.

Structo Div., King-Seeley Thermos Co., Freeport, Ill. 61032. Looms and equipment.

The Silver Shuttle, 1301 35th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Looms, equipment and supplies.

Threadbare Unlimited, 289 Bleecker St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Looms, equipment and supplies.

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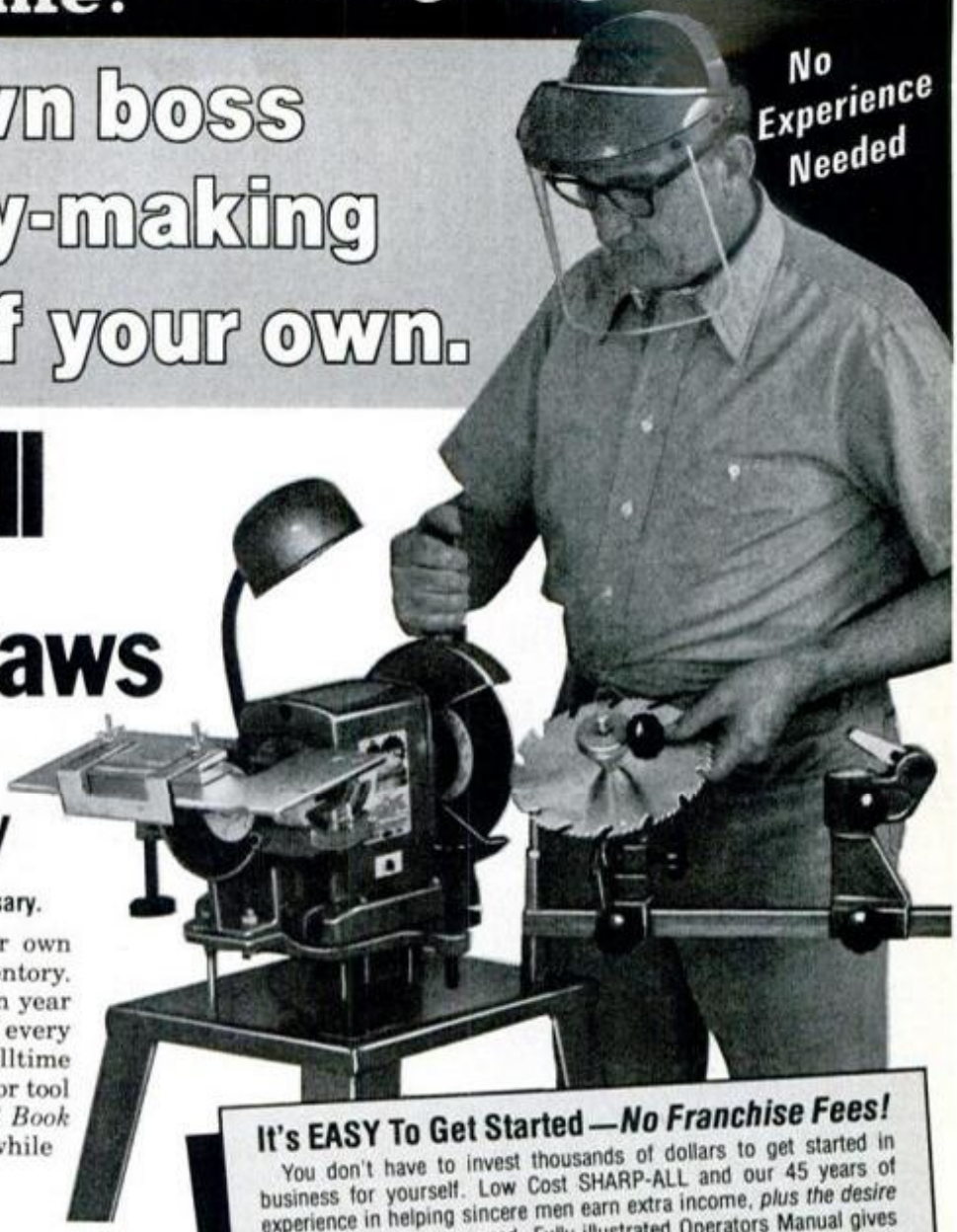

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WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 76)

pected skillet-size hooves to redesign my body. But the moose had stopped at the forest's fringe and now stared at me, apparently entranced (or maybe even amused) by my performance. This time, though, I got the shots.

A long lens is best

The importance of at least 400 mm worth of telephoto lens for wildlife photography cannot be overemphasized. If a 400-mm forces you to back away to get the whole scene in your finder, remember you're less likely to spook wildlife by backing away from it than approaching it, as you might have to with a shorter focal length. A 400-mm telephoto magnifies eight times. This figure is arrived at by dividing the focal length of your normal 50-mm lens into the longer lens's focal length. The value of this as a *minimum* focal length has proved itself to me time and time again.

A good example took place in Rainy Mountain Provincial Park in Manitoba, Canada. Chance had put me at the head of a caravan of competitive outdoor writer-photographers. My wife spotted a black bear tearing chunks from the rotting carcass of a whitetail deer.

A feeding bear can make an interesting shot. But bears are almost as touchy about defending their dinners as they are about their young, so I cautiously broke out my 400-mm lens to shoot with.

The others laughed at my timidity—but they stood just as far back from the bear as I did. And since they all were using 200-mm or shorter lenses, I alone was able to fill my frame with the bear from our common shooting spot. The 200-mm users had to settle for half-filled frames, and the rest for even less. I sold several of my shots to major magazines—one for enough to buy me my new 400-mm with follow-focus—so I guess the last laugh was mine.

Read before shooting

Once you decide to get into wildlife photography, start building up a library of books and articles. And read them—don't just store them on your shelf. A few minutes before retiring each night will soon give you an insight into wildlife behavior, where animals range, the best time of year to photograph them.

One of the important things you'll learn is that often you need go no farther than your back yard to photograph wildlife. And you can devise simple tricks to bring *them* to *you*. Once I thought it would be nice to have a picture of a bird standing on my follow-focus lens. I put it on a camera and a tripod in my back yard and taped a tiny box of bird seed to the far side of the lens barrel. In minutes some pinyon jays were using the lens for a runway and pecking at the seeds. I shot pictures of them with a second camera and telephoto lens through a partially opened window of my house. A tape recorder playing the calls of the animals you're trying to shoot or their prey will help, too. But be sure your bait equipment doesn't show in the photo.

Easy blinds

Houses and cars make excellent blinds; I've shot hundreds of wildlife pictures from them. Expose as little of yourself as possible, and the odds go up for your getting good shots.

When I can't use a house or car, I resort to my light, super-portable mini-blind: a 9-foot square of camouflage netting—the one that fooled the coyote—and a small, folding camp stool. Drape the netting over you, and its loose weave allows fairly good vision out. Just remember to secure the netting to the lens's sunshade with a rubber band, so it doesn't fall in front of the lens.

The blind can be set up in seconds, and really works. Driving the highway toward Grand Canyon one summer day, I saw several hummingbirds sipping nectar from roadside flowers. The birds flew away when I approached, of course, but returned after I had rigged the blind and crawled inside. Some of them flew within inches of the netting. I use the blind too, in conjunction with some of the wildlife calls available today.

If you want a 100-percent guarantee, try your nearest zoo. Even the pros occasionally depend on zoos for shots of certain animals (they'll kill me for telling). Recently a wildlife publication sent me on assignment to the Phoenix zoo to photograph a mustached tamarin, a member of the New World monkey family. It was a lot cheaper than sending me to South America to photograph them in the wild.

Although shooting through bars, screens and fences would seem to be a problem at a zoo, you can often photographically eliminate them. Put a long-focal-length telephoto on your camera—the 400-mm is often ideal—and change distances a few times, refocusing on your subject

(Please turn to page 140)

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WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 138)

until the barriers blur out of focus enough to disappear.

More equipment tips

As mentioned earlier, insects are a part of the wildlife scene. A picture of a butterfly on a flower can have as much impact as a grizzly-bear portrait. Since many telephoto lenses focus no closer than 25 or 30 feet (some go down to less than 12 feet, but they're usually very expensive), a bellows must be put between the lens and the camera to extend the focusing range. Now you can fill the frame with tiny subjects, yet remain far enough away not to frighten them off.

When you get deeper into wildlife photography, you'll want a second camera body. Nothing can be more frustrating than to work for hours to get into position, then have a camera malfunction, and not have a spare. It also speeds up lens-switching if you keep a different lens on each of your two bodies.

Investigate the big zoom lenses, too. Using a 200-500-mm zoom in southern Montana, I was able first to take pictures of several bighorn sheep together, then zoom in on individual herd members. The lens virtually eliminated the need to move about and perhaps spook the animals into flight.

Because telephotos are slower lenses, transmitting less light, many wildlife photographers standardize on high-speed films. Under the best of conditions, these films are not too bad; in poor light, when you really need them, they leave a lot to be desired. My standard is Kodachrome 64 for wildlife photography. On occasions I've had editors choose my work over that of other contributors because of the quality of my film.

If you want to take wildlife pictures to sell, you must be much more demanding than one who shoots for personal enjoyment only. You'll quickly learn that pictures of animals or birds, just standing or sitting are doomed to sit forever in your files. To sell, they must show action or unusually attractive composition.

All my life I have been a hunter. But I find wildlife photography just as exciting and rewarding. The photographer must often approach closer than the hunter to bag his trophy; and he usually has no gun to defend himself. If you become addicted to wildlife photography as I am, maybe someday I'll see you out on a hill. That is, if you're not in your mini-blind. ★★★

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DRIVING THE NEW 30-MPG GREMLIN

(Continued from page 87)

New front-end sheet metal was part of the restyling for 1977 model year.

braking. The rear tires had a habit of locking up during panic stops.

But with this lightweight, ohc Four, handling becomes much better balanced, more natural, surer and easier. The car now behaves beautifully in all situations. There's still some understeer in high-speed cornering, but not nearly so such as with the Six.

Another surprise came in the area of noise and vibration. There wasn't much of either. The engine and drive train mount in rubber, and there's a tuned weight on the transmission that counters harmonic vibrations. There's relatively little shaking and rumble noticeable in the passenger compartment. And the Chrysler-built automatic transmission shifts in positive steps, but not jerkily as in some small cars.

This four-cylinder engine weighs some 295 pounds—200 pounds less than the 232-inch Six. Thanks to the lighter engine, front suspension and driveline are lighter, too, giving an extra weight saving in the chassis. Curb weight of the four-cylinder Grem with stick comes to 2550 pounds, as compared with 2761 for the six-cylinder version.

The lighter front end allows a quicker manual steering ratio (25:1 vs. 27:1), so this again perks up handling. It's a responsive car now—something it wasn't before.

The new engine, is based on an Audi powerplant that's used in the Porsche 924 and a German light-duty VW truck. However, very few components interchange between the Audi and the AMC versions. AMC designed its own manifolds and mounts a two-stage Holley-Weber carb (almost identical to the one used by Pinto and Vega).

New plant for new engine

American Motors has just finished building a $60-million factory in Richmond, Ind., where the four-cylinder engines will be manufactured under an agreement with the German company. For the moment, AMC Fours are being assembled in Indiana from basic parts shipped in. But very soon this Indiana plant will begin turning out its own components and assemble the engine as a totally American product.

AMC has the potential for building some 275,000 Fours a year, and the agreement with the Germans is to make enough engines to eventually start selling them back to Audi. There's also talk about this engine going into a smaller AMC car in the future.

This appears to be a good engine—astutely engineered and put together for a combination of durability, performance and economy. That plus the Buyer Protection Plan II and a base price below $3000 makes the new Gremlin Four worth a second trial spin. ★★★

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FURNACE FIX-UPS

(Continued from page 106)

relay that shuts off the oil pump motor if the oil spray doesn't ignite. Without a stack-control relay, oil would continue to be pumped into the combustion chamber, causing a dangerous overflow.

The safety switches can kick the furnace off for other reasons, too. For example, even a momentary drop and surge in electric current would do it. Momentary deviations in current are not uncommon. The power company will tell you that.

In resetting safety switches, the key word is "once." If the furnace fails to reignite after you reset each switch *once*, or if the furnace starts and stops again, *don't* keep fooling with it.

There is only one correct procedure to use when you have to manipulate safety switches: Press the motor overload switch first. If the motor does not start, activate the stack-control relay once. The motor overload switch is usually on the motor housing. The stack-control relay is usually to be found either on the smoke pipe or the burner housing.

■ **Photoelectric cell service.** Your oil burner may have a photoelectric cell that controls furnace functioning. If so, the cell "eye" may have become covered with dirt. Your furnace might start after you activate the stack-control relay, but would shut down after running less than a minute. If you know your furnace has a photocell, clean it first before resetting the safety switches (remember, they should be activated only *once*.)

Unscrew the cover of the photoelectric cell housing and carefully wipe off the cell. Now activate both safety switches. *Caution:* When doing any work inside an oil burner, first turn off all emergency switches or cut off current to the furnace by tripping the circuit breaker or removing the fuse.

■ **Oil valve bypass.** Some oil burners have oil valves that control the flow of oil to the burner according to "need." Furnaces with photoelectric cells, for example, have such valves, which are frequently referred to as delayed oil valves. Check the manufacturer's literature or your oil company to determine if there are any exotic devices on your oil burner.

If a delayed oil valve gets clogged with dirt or malfunctions for some reason, oil won't get to the firebox. No fire, no heat. You can bypass this valve temporarily by disconnecting the input and output oil lines at the

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valve, removing the valve and joining the input and output lines. Do this, however, *only* if you have the proper pipe fittings that will assure a leakproof and airtight connection.

■ **Nozzle-electrode assembly inspection.** Turn off all emergency switches, loosen the oil line connection, and disconnect the transformer and electrode wires. Remove the nozzle-and-electrode assembly and lay it on a clean surface.

Detach the nozzle. Inside may be a small filter. Wash it in warm water. If you find a small setscrew inside the nozzle, remove and wash it, too. Blow through the nozzle. If the passage is clear, air will pass freely. If the passage is blocked, replace the nozzle with a spare you foresightedly put in reserve.

If there is no spare, you could try to clear the blockage with a strand of wire that is thinner than the nozzle opening. *However*, if the nozzle is widened at all, "puff" will occur when the furnace is turned on. Furnace puff makes a lot of noise but causes no damage.

Clean off the electrode tips with a piece of fine steel wool, but be careful not to upset the electrode gap. If it is disturbed, reset it according to the drawings on page 105.

After everything is buttoned up again, turn on emergency switches and activate the stack-control relay.

Tip: If you want to avoid the emergency deep freeze, have your oil burner cleaned and serviced by a professional *before* the blizzard.

Gas burner checklist

■ **Thermostat inspection, fuse or circuit breaker examination and on-off switch check.** All this is done in the same way as discussed before. However, there is usually only one on-off switch, which is mounted on or right near the furnace.

■ **Pilot light check.** The pilot light may be out, so attempt to relight it as outlined on the furnace instruction plate. Here's a typical procedure: 1. Turn down the thermostat and turn off the furnace on-off switch. 2. Shut off the main gas valve, then relight the pilot.

If the pilot does not light, a piece of dirt or carbon may be clogging the orifice. Tap the burner lightly with the handle of a screwdriver to try to dislodge the blockage.

Caution: Do not open the main gas valve on the furnace until the pilot is lit and never try to light the main burner manually.

Remember the surest way to prevent a mid-winter furnace failure is to call the serviceman before the heating season. ★★★

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HOW TO STOP HESITATION

(Continued from page 103)

the terminal. Hold the screwdriver by the handle, so you don't get shocked, and place the shank ¼ to ½ inch from a ground.

Have someone start the engine. If a blue spark jumps the gap, reconnect the cable and let the engine idle until its gets hot. Then retest.

If other than a blue spark appears when the engine is cold, the coil, condenser, breaker points or a primary ignition wire is faulty. Check points; if badly pitted, replace them and the condenser. Be sure a primary wire isn't loose or grounding.

Another way to test ignition is to pull any sparkplug cable from the distributor cap. Hold the cable with insulated pliers so the cable terminal is about ¼ inch from the terminal in the cap. Crank the engine and check for a strong, blue arcing spark.

If other than a blue spark appears when you test the ignition system with the engine hot, the coil is probably breaking down and should be replaced.

Caution: Do not do this test if your car has electronic ignition.

On a hunch that maybe it's the reason, see that the timing of the ignition system is set to specification and that the vacuum advance isn't failing on acceleration. The vacuum advance can be tested with your timing light by determining that timing advances about 3° when the engine is accelerated with the vacuum advance unit reconnected.

Fuel supply

Most hesitation problems have a fuel-system-related condition as their cause. The trouble may be between fuel tank and carburetor, or it may be in the carburetor itself. Make easy tests first.

Replace the fuel filter if a new one hasn't been installed in a while. Test drive the car and see if you still get hesitation.

If the automatic choke can be adjusted (electronic-assist chokes in late models should not be adjusted), set the index one extra notch to the rich side of that specified as normal by the manufacturer. Test drive. Hesitation still? Reset the choke to specification and proceed.

Spread a mixture of motor oil and kerosene around the carburetor-manifold joint and float-bowl main body of the carburetor joint as an assistant accelerates the engine. If the mixture is sucked into the joint, you've found the cause of hesitation —loose bolts or a leaking gasket.

(Please turn to page 150)

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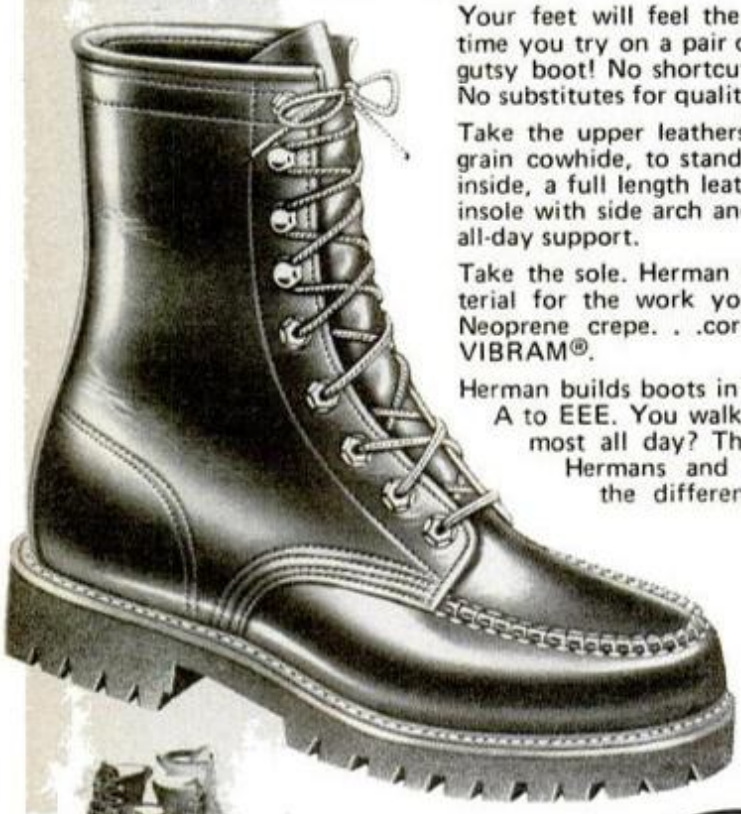

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HOW TO STOP HESITATION

(Continued from page 148)

Test fuel pump delivery next. The most accurate way is to disconnect the fuel pump-to-carburetor fuel line and install a pressure gauge. Then run the engine at specified idling speed. The pressure reading should be up to specification.

Actual pump pressure varies with the fuel pump. Some, for example, put out 3½ to 5 pounds; others, 5 to 7 pounds. Check the specs.

Without a pressure gauge, you can get an idea of fuel-pump adequacy by holding a bowl under the end of the disconnected fuel line at the carburetor. Have someone crank the engine. A good flow of fuel will more or less discount the fuel pump as the reason for hesitation.

I would advise that you test compression and the EGR system before doing the next carburetor-related tasks which involve carburetor cleaning and overhaul, especially to replace the accelerator pump and assure cleanliness of the accelerator pump circuit.

The accelerator pump supplies an extra shot of gasoline to the engine when the engine is accelerated. This offsets the gulp of air that's pulled in and would, but for the extra fuel, thin out the fuel mixture to produce hesitation on acceleration.

Test compression

If compression in one or more cylinders is below normal, hesitation could be caused by a leaking valve. However, low compression may also be caused by blowby past rings, which would not produce hesitation.

To find out, squirt engine oil on top of the pistons in the cylinders involved and test compression again. If you get a normal reading on the gauge, the rings are probably worn. But if oil fails to increase compression, the problem is valve-related.

Mechanics who dismiss hesitation with the "emission controls" excuse are correct in one sense. A malfunctioning EGR valve can cause hesitation. It operates by vacuum and is normally closed, preventing recirculation of exhaust gases. If it gets fouled and isn't functioning properly, recirculation of exhaust gases would be increased, and excess gases would be induced into the intake manifold, upsetting the critical combustion balance during acceleration.

The EGR valve is easily checked out by clamping closed the vacuum hose from the valve to the manifold and test driving the car. If hesitation is no longer apparent, the EGR system should be serviced. ★★★

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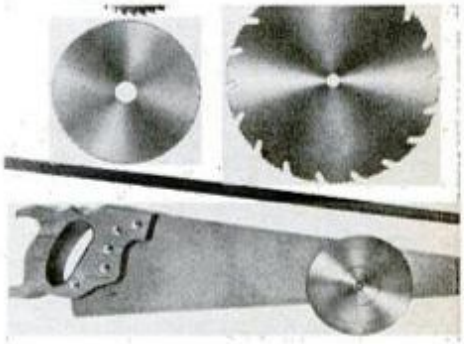

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CHOPPER THEY CALL WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

(Continued from page 86)

over 34/2, which lacked only the broad bridge for completion. Through the bubble, Larry calmly surveyed the four corner uprights of the body and the four legs of the bridge that would fit on top of them.

"Come down, Dave," Larry said, "down a little more." The copter dropped about 10 feet. The bridge legs swayed over the body uprights.

"I've got it," Larry said, telling Dave he was taking over the controls. Before takeoff, Larry had explained to me how the aft pilot handles the plane. He has controls similar to those in the forward positions —a control stick at either side of his seat. The left stick—called the collective—provides vertical control while the stick on the right—the azimuth—controls direction and yaw. But the system, which produces electrical impulses to an autopilot, is limited to 10-percent control of the craft and can be overridden by the hydraulic controls up forward.

As adept as a juggler

Larry worked the controls almost automatically, his head bent slightly forward as he looked down between his knees. He made me think of a juggler as he delicately maneuvered the better than 40,000-pound chopper inches at a time in order to precisely control the 8000-pound, 65-foot-wide bridge dangling from cables.

He talked into the intercom almost continuously, as much to himself as to Dave: "Okay, almost there . . . down a little . . . looks good. Oh damn!" A gust of wind had moved the chopper several feet to the right.

"I've got it," Dave said, maneuvering the craft back on target again. "Okay, I've got it," Larry said. The switching of control functions was as automatic as breathing.

Larry's first task was to ease the nearest right leg of the bridge into a "V" formed by two corner guide plates attached to the body's upright. Once it was engaged, Larry would slide the bridge leg down until it rested on top of the upright. Meanwhile, he was controlling yaw motions so the far right leg would also be captured by its "V" guide. As a further aid in keeping the two bridge legs within the target area there was a metal strap—a "wraparound"—running around the body's uprights the way the ropes enclose a boxing ring. Once a leg was down in the target area, it would bounce off the wraparound as the bridge section oscillated.

First two legs drop in

Using the wraparound with skill, Larry maneuvered the chopper slightly to the right until the leg hit the "V" guide. With the chopper stable, he slid the leg into its final position. The other leg now was in its guide—and it, too, dropped into position.

Larry now changed the chopper's attitude slightly, causing the left side of the bridge to drop. With the right legs firmly in place, the two left legs rocked into the guides and slid into position. He hit a button on his right stick to open the four hooks holding the bridge cables.

"It's set," Larry told Dave, who responded with the now familiar: "I've got it." Dave banked sharply and we were headed back to the marshaling yard. "On the next one," Larry said, "let's try it from the downwind side."

The next bridge was positioned on the first try, with almost no jockeying or maneuvering. The entire operation probably took no more than a minute. Later, when I was shooting pictures from the ground, Larry worked so fast on a tower that I barely had time to squeeze off three frames before the chopper sped away again. A virtuoso performance.

Once the sections are in position, ground crews climb the towers and fix bolts in predrilled holes to finish the job. All this adds up to amazing precision when you consider the size and weight of the elements involved. The towers I saw completed stood 130 feet high and weighed some 22,000 pounds.

A major problem in using a helicopter as a crane is the tendency of the heavy cargo to swing or yaw. Sikorsky, builder of heavy-lift copters since 1953, solved the problem with a cage and spreaderbar system that damps yawing forces.

An aluminum restraint

The Erickson people have modified the original design and, they say, saved hundreds of pounds of extra weight in the process. The cage, made of heavy aluminum members, is attached under the hatch where the hoist cable is lowered. (See photo at the bottom of page 84.) At the cage's bottom is an oval-shaped aluminum ring which restricts the movement of the spreader bar.

The spreader-bar unit is shaped like a triangle. The apex—at the top —is connected to the chopper's hoist cable; the bar itself, which hangs parallel to the bottom of the fuselage, has two cables attached to each

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end. Each cable has a cargo hook at its other end. It's a simple but effective device.

The flying crane was the brainchild of Igor Sikorsky, the helicopter pioneer and founder of the company that bears his name. A test aircraft, the S-60, was built in 1959, and an improved version, the S-64, made its first flight in 1962.

In his autobiography, *The Winged-S*, Sikorsky writes: "Crane helicopters were first used as military aircraft in Vietnam. The S-64, with its powerful engines and its ability to carry loads of any shape and size, joined the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) of the U.S. Army in 1965. Four S-64s retrieved more than 100 aircraft in their first six months in Vietnam. They were also used to carry 155-mm artillery pieces—something no other helicopter could do—bulldozers, fuel bags, radar equipment and other supplies. Pods, attached to the S-64's undercarriage, carried troops . . ."

About 100 Skycranes have been produced by Sikorsky, but most are in the hands of the military. To stimulate civilian sales, Sikorsky organized—in the late '60s—a company to handle a variety of contracting jobs. As a result, Sikorsky crews installed transmission towers at sites where top sections couldn't be placed by ground cranes; airlifted prefab sections of a restaurant to a mountain ski-lodge site; delivered pipe, cement and other supplies to an oil rig in a South American jungle; and offloaded containerized cargo from a ship in the Arctic.

Lumbering by helicopter

Currently, seven of the expensive ($2.2 million) copters are with commercial operators. Erickson and Evergreen, a company in McMinnville, Ore., each own three. Tri-Eagle, a company based in Yuba City, Calif., operates one. All three operators are engaged in West Coast lumbering.

Jack Erickson, whose family has been in the lumber business since 1915, pioneered logging by helicopter. In January 1971, he tested the method using a chopper with a 7500-pound payload capacity. The results were so encouraging that he decided to try a Skycrane.

The big bird was given a severe test—logging selected timber in a 610-acre tract in the Siskiyou region of Oregon. The Siskiyou National Forest is part of the millions of acres of wilderness supervised by the U.S. Forest Service. In many of these forests there are large stands of mature trees that should be removed to encourage secondary growth. Some of the trees may even be infested.

Naming it was easy.

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It may be impossible to get these trees out by conventional methods because the site is on a steep slope, for example, or in the heart of the forest. Too, the Forest Service does not want to mar a forest area by completely clearing vast tracts or running in a network of crude roads that will remain as scars.

Final test a success

In the Siskiyou test, selected trees were marked and felled, and a single Skycrane was used to transport them to a loading area for trucks. The big bird plucked the fallen timber in loads averaging 18,000 pounds. From Aug. 23 to Oct. 7, 1971, the Skycrane was flown six to eight hours a day during good weather. Five million board feet of timber, weighing some 27,000 tons, were harvested. The Forest Service and Jack Erickson regarded the test as a success.

Today, logging remains the bread-and butter of the Erickson operation. Transmission-line work may come and go, but each year, from April through November, two Skycranes are kept busy logging in northern California, Oregon or Washington.

From time to time, other types of contracting jobs come up. The one the Erickson people still talk about was the topping of the 1805-foot CN Tower in Toronto, the world's tallest free-standing structure. An Erickson Skycrane flown by Larry Pravecek, Dave Kohornen and Rip Green was used to put the finishing touch on the tower: the 335-foot, 300-ton communications mast.

Convincing the engineers

"That was a hot-dog job," says Larry. The Erickson pilots, who became local celebrities during the operation, don't often get a chance to show the public what they can do. Before Erickson got the job, the steel contractor had to be convinced that the helicopter was capable of doing the precision work the tower-topping called for. But the job was in the bag after contracting-company engineers watched Erickson crews set a few transmission towers.

The helicopter has proven itself as a flying crane. A military version of the Skycrane is capable of transporting 12½-ton loads. Sikorsky has a third-generation craft under development able to lift 17 tons. And that will not be the limit. Igor Sikorsky foresaw helicopters capable of transporting 50-ton and even 100-ton cargoes. If that sounds farfetched, keep in mind that Mr. Sikorsky's predictions have had a habit of coming true. ★★★

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TURNED ON BY THE SUN

(Continued from page 114)

velops temperatures of 2000° F. within the area of the focus spot provided by a Fresnel lens.

A Fresnel lens is a flat, thin piece of plastic with a series of small, concentric stepped zones molded in. The zones extend out from the center to the edge, with each groove being a minute refracting facet that is capable of bending light. The transmittance of a Fresnel lens (its ability to pass light) is increased more than that of a conventional lens having the same focal length. The world's largest Fresnel lens, which sells for $3000, is shown on page 112.

The solar furnace can be used as the basis for using the sun to solder and braze. You can employ it to temper small flat springs, to fire enamel on jewelry and to make a barbecue grill. It sells for $59.95.

■ **Portable solar cooker**—This is a device that reflects the heat of the sun off a foil background onto any kind of food you can put on a skewer. It sells for $13.95.

■ **Solar reflector**—Instead of foil, this is an all-aluminum reflector that catches and reflects the sun's heat onto a metal pot you can hang on an extension arm. In the pot? Water, soup or any liquid you want heated. Price without pot is $22.95.

■ **Solar oven kit**—This is an offshoot of the solar reflector. It is a parabolic reflector that catches the sun and directs heat on a test tube. You can boil water in it or use it for science projects. It's $3.25.

■ **Solar cigaret lighter**—This is the smallest of the parabolic units. You stick a cigaret on the holder, with the end to be lighted facing toward the reflector. In seconds, the 3x4 inch oval plate generates enough heat to light your cigaret—if there is sun. The lighter sells for $1.75.

■ **Portable solar water heater**—This is a practical device if you go camping where there is sun but no hot water. It provides 10 quarts of water heated to 100° F. in less than three hours on a 70° day. The vinyl bag is filled and placed in the sun. The unit is equipped with a hose and small aluminum spray head, so you can shower. The price is $9.50.

All these products use sunlight as an energy source. With few exceptions, they aren't overly sophisticated although they do the job for which they were developed.

Remember that only 15 years ago the cost of solar cells was $500 per watt. Today, that cost is about $15, and it seems to be dropping about 20 percent a year. So be patient. More new products are on the way. ★★★

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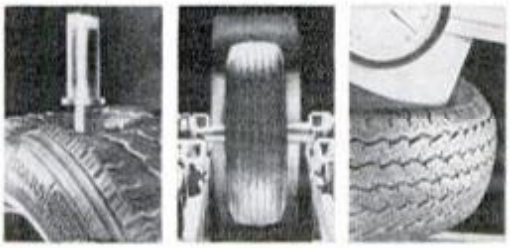

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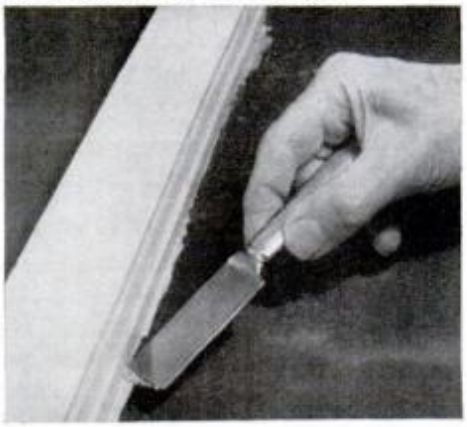
HINTS

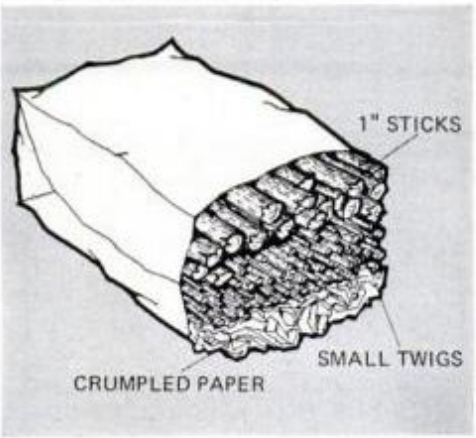
FROM READERS

Knife makes good scraper



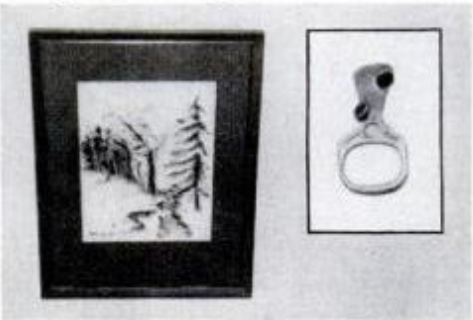
Turn an old steel table knife into a scraper, putty knife or spatula. Cut off half the blade and file a bevel on the end.—*Walter E. Burton*

Fireplace starter bags



Make starting a fire easier. Paper grocery bags filled with twigs, 1-in. sticks and wadded paper form the foundation for a lively fire. Just touch a match to the bottom of the sack to start it.—*Richard Curwin*

Tab picture hanger



Pull tabs from beverage cans make good picture hangers when they are nailed to the wall. The tab rings swivel, allowing for picture adjustment.—*Roy Zolesky*

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OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS

(Continued from page 89)

they'd like to see in their cars. Some have already been made in 1977 models; some haven't. Here's a sampling.

"Doors should be made thinner. They're too heavy on the coupe."—Arizona retiree. And a New York policeman: "Reposition the spare tire to allow more space in the trunk."

A common complaint from a New York artist: "Add front vent windows and get rid of that drafty ventilation system with the fan always running." A Tennessee warehouseman: "Fenders need to be redesigned so wheels don't toss rocks up against the lower body."

More suggested improvements: "They ought to put on thicker paint," recommends a Michigan printer. "I had some blotches on the hood. Three swipes with rubbing compound and I was down to the primer."

An Illinois electrician: "Less plastic." A Minnesota marketing manager: "Change to front-wheel drive." A Dallas salesman: "Gauges instead of idiot lights." And an Army captain from Key West: "The hatch roof needs a much larger rain gutter. Water pours in from the roof when you open the doors."

Workmanship draws a plus

What about Oldsmobile workmanship? When Olds builds you a car, it apparently does it well, because 74.5 percent of our owners rated workmanship good to excellent. Typical comments ranged from "... the Cutlass is the best vehicle I have bought in several years," to "... good workmanship except for some minor paint spots," and "... the workmanship is so bad inside and out that GM should insist on its workers taking a little more pride in their work."

Regarding service, only 38.8 percent of Cutlass owners had any need to take their cars to the shop in the miles they'd racked up thus far. Of those who needed service, 57.3 percent were pleased with dealer repairs. Here's a cross section of service experiences.

"The carburetor wouldn't hold a smooth idle," says a New York architect. "I took it back eight or nine times. Very sloppy mechanics—grease all over my seats. Things got worse. I finally had my service station repair it."

A Missouri house painter: "We needed some body work done because the car was delivered with a dent

(Please turn to page 160)

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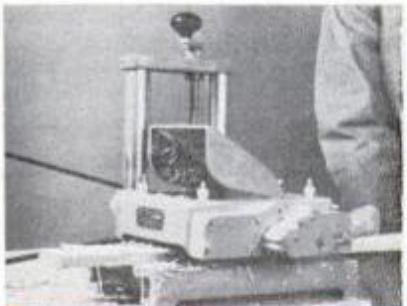
*As described by Popular Mechanics, November, 1976, page 128.



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WHEN ANSWERING ADS

OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS

(Continued from page 158)

on the door, damaged in transit. The dealer did this work promptly and well."

A Wisconsin hospital clerk: "My car had some unusual problems. It was delivered with a burnt-out transmission and one bad sparkplug. The dealer took a week to replace the tranny and three months to diagnose the bad plug. All was done under warranty, however."

And a Michigan purchasing agent: "Heater not working, and keys stuck in ignition. Dealer corrected both problems the same day; no charge."

Owners like resale value

Several owners praised the Cutlass's resale value, giving this as one of their reasons for loyalty to Oldsmobile. Noted a Michigan teacher: "My previous car was a 1974 Cutlass S, which I bought for $3700 and sold two years later for $3200. That's hard to beat!"

An unemployed Michigander remarked, "It's a good car—probably the best one I've ever had or ever will have." A New York housewife: "The Cutlass has every nice feature of my friend's Cadillac, but without the bulk and weight." A Texas construction supervisor: "Looks and rides like a more expensive car, and the inside is great."

Will Cutlass owners buy another? Nearly 90 percent say yes, especially if the car isn't made smaller. If it is, and that seems quite likely, loyal owners will probably switch to Delta 88s. ★★★

HOT DOGGING IT IN THE BULLRING

(Continued from page 81)

odd angle, a good two or three feet from where it's supposed to be. He'll have an interesting week in front of him.

It's all over

For this night at least, it's all over for Ross. Later, we head for the pit area and he shakes his head as he sees us approach.

"I'm not sure what—I can't get at it just yet—but something let go as I was halfway into the turn and it just jerked me into the wall."

We extend our sympathies, assure him of our confidence in, and hope of, his eventually winning, and again say how sorry we are, how rotten his luck.

"Look," Ross says, his eyes sweeping the dimly lit pit area, "that's racing." ★★★

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SHULTON

 (Continued from page 100)

(see glossary. A hand-held terminal with a similar keyboard and display is now available, at $96, for the SC/MP.

KIM-1 also has an interface for bulk storage on a cassette recorder of programs not currently in use.

Fully clothed computers

Though it has a bare-board look, the E&L MMD-1 Mini-Micro ($350) is a lot more machine. There's a power supply beneath the board, and a keyboard and display atop it.

But this keyboard and display are different. The numbers on these keys just go up to 8—you program this computer in octal (see glossary). And the display isn't a row of numbers like a calculator's: It's a string of LEDs.

Reading a string of lights to get a number may not be natural to you, but it's very natural for a computer, because a computer thinks in "binary" (see glossary)—numbers made up of individual "bits" which can only have the valves of "0" or "1". Those ones and zeros can be symbolized by "on" and "off" LEDs. Converting binary in your head to match the octal keyboard is easy, but converting to decimal numbers is a lot harder.

The two Altairs have similar rows of LEDs. But instead of keyboards, they have a switch for every light; you enter programs in binary by

Glossary of terms

Binary—A number system based on powers of two and having only two digits, "1" and "0". Operations inside the computer take place in binary form. Binary 11010110 is equivalent to decimal 214.

Bit (byte)—One simple piece of yes-or-no information. Computer logic is built on this foundation, allowing only two digits—that's why computers use binary arithmetic. Eight bits make one "byte".

Bulk storage—An external device, such as a tape recorder, on which a computer's contents can be recorded to be reloaded into the computer when needed.

Bus—A power or signal line used in common by several parts of a computer.

Hex—Hexadecimal, the numbering system based on 16 and using the 16 digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F. Since 16 is a power of 2, binary numbers are easily converted into hex, so machine-language computer programs are often written in hex to save space. For example, binary 11010110 (decimal 214) could be written in hex as D6.

Interface—A circuit which controls the flow and format of data between a computer and a terminal or other peripheral.

I/O—Input/Output: a device which supplies data and instructions to the computer and receives the computer's output, or a circuit which interfaces with such a device.

Language—A format for computer programs. Ultimately, computers receive their instructions in "machine language," binary codes whose meanings are specific to each computer. For instance, "10000111" (C3 in hex) tells the Altair 8800 to add a number in memory to the current total. Machine codes are usually written in hex or octal for easier use by humans. "High-level languages," such as BASIC, let you write programs in fairly human terms (such as PRINT "NOW IS THE TIME"), then translate each instruction into sequences of machine codes.

Memory—an electronic device which stores information (data or program instructions) in specified locations, where the computer can retrieve it as needed (see RAM, ROM).

Monitor—a program which controls a computer's basic operations, telling it how and where to acquire the programs and data, where to store them, and how to run them.

Octal—a numbering system based on 8 and using the digits 0 through 7. Since 8 is a power of two, binary programs are easily converted into octal. Binary 11010110 (decimal 214) could be written in octal as 326.

Parallel—a type of interface in which all bits of data in a given byte are transferred simultaneously, using a separate data line for each bit.

Peripheral—Any external device used in a computer system.

Port—The physical circuit which interfaces the computer to a peripheral and the numerical address the computer uses in communicating through it.

Program—A set of instructions which tells a computer, in excruciating detail, just what to do and how and when to do it.

RAM—Random-Access Memory, the main memory of a computer. Instructions can be written into and read out of RAM, and its contents can be changed at any time. But its contents are wiped clean when power is shut off (see ROM).

ROM—Read-Only Memory. A type of memory which is not wiped clean when power is shut off. Some ROMs can only be programmed at the factory. Others, called PROMs (Programmable ROMs) can be programmed, but not erased, by the user. EPROMs (Erasable PROMs) can be erased and reprogrammed. ROMs are mostly used to store programs such as monitors which will be needed whenever the computer is used. Programs stored in ROM are called "firmware."

Software—Programs.

Terminal—A device used for communicating with a computer, usually including a typewriter-like keyboard and either a TV screen (CRT) or typing device (teletypewriter) on which your input and the computer's output can be displayed.

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

the flicking of each switch on or off.

The E&L Mini-Micro is designed as a computer trainer. It comes with a series of superb manuals, called "Bugbooks" (also available separately), which clearly teach the basics of programming and building interface circuits. And the MMD-1 includes sockets in which you can build experimental interface circuits, then change or dismantle them.

The two Altairs, with their neat cabinets and rows of LEDs and switches, look a lot more like "real" computers. But though they look alike outside, they're not much alike.

The Altair 680b (see accompanying report) is the less expensive, yet the more complete of the two: Its base price of $466 includes an interface circuit for a terminal, a small amount of working memory (1024 eight-bit "bytes") and a ROM monitor, all of which are extra in the 8800b. You can add more memory, but so far very little else.

The beautiful bus

The Altar 8800b costs $840, without memory, monitor or interface. But it's more versatile because of its 100-pin connector bus. A hundred lines run between each of the 18 cards slots in the computer to carry power, data and control signals between circuit cards.

At least three companies—IMSAI, Processor Technology and Polymorphic—have adopted the same bus for their computers, and I've long since lost count of the firms making boards to fit it. That makes accessories for the Altair about as easy to find as they are for Volkswagens.

The 8800b's biggest lack is a ROM monitor. So my first addition was a Cromemco Bytesaver ($195) that not only reads ROMs, but lets you program them yourself.

Next came a Processor Technology 3P+S interface board ($135), with a serial interface for connection to my terminal, and a parallel port for my paper tape reader.

The terminal is a Lear-Siegler ADM-3A ($875), the only terminal kit that will handle lower-case as well as capital letters (though the lower-case option adds $100 to the price). The $135 numerical keyboard shown will simplify bookkeeping.

The paper tape reader is the unique Oliver OP-80A. It's just $75, because instead of moving tapes by motor power, it uses the cheaper power of my arm.

Once I've loaded a program from paper tape (and many programs are available that way), I can copy it onto a cassette in seconds, with a Tarbell cassettee interface board ($120) that slots into the bus. The Ro-Che tape controller ($125) lets the Tarbell feed, listen to, start and stop four tape recorders. That will be a big help when I get into complex sorting programs such as bookkeeping.

(The Southwest Technical Products AC-30 cassette interface at $80 runs and interfaces two tape recorders, but its instructions only tell you how to use it with SWTP's own computer and terminal kits.)

My Seals 8K memory board ($295) adds 8192 bytes of memory to the 16,384 that MITS supplied with the Altair, for a total of 24,576 bytes.

A Processor Technology VDM-1 Video Display Module board ($199) displays computer output on a video monitor screen or a modified TV set. It can show white letters on black, black on white, or some of each for emphasis; or it can emphasize words or characters by blinking or underlining. It can play video games, too.

The last addition was a Bob Mullen extender board ($35), which raises other circuit boards so you can get at them easily for testing. Most extender boards just have a 100-pin bus plug at the bottom and a 100-pin jack at the top; the Mullen also has a "logic probe" and other test facilities.

Obviously, a full-dress computer system can cost a lot, but a simple one doesn't have to. The SC/MP, its terminal, and the Heath power supply, for instance, would cost only $275.

Whatever you get, though, you'll need help at some point in getting it to run correctly, especially if you assemble a system from several different sources. But that help is at hand: from the kit manufacturers, from more experienced hobbyists in the computer clubs popping up around the country, and from the growing number of home-computer stores. ★★★

I BUILT MY HOME COMPUTER

(Continued from page 100)

on the 680 boards often are very thin and very close together. Any solder that accidentally flows across one line to another, forming an electrical bridge for current to flow where none was intended, can blow up your microprocessor. Use plenty of bright light and look very closely to see that no bridges form.

Special handling for chips

Some of the IC chips are MOS types which require special handling to prevent static in your body, or elsewhere, from arcing across the chip and smashing its guts. You'll

(Please turn to page 164)

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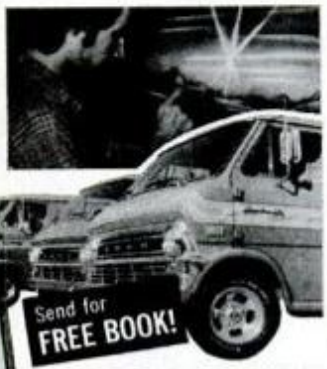

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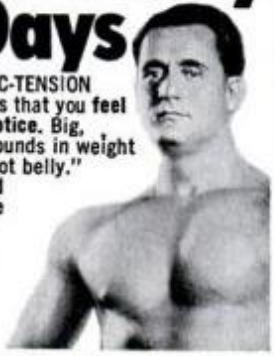

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HOME COMPUTER KITS

(Continued from page 163)

never know you have zapped the delicate innards of a MOS chip until after you have wired it in. So take pains before you button up the box to handle the MOS patiently and carefully. MITS provides detailed instructions in how to avoid zapping MOS chips.

Another easy foul-up is in placing jumper wires on the boards. These jumpers are placed according to the types of I/O device you plan to use with the 680. My 680 didn't work completely when I first fired it up after construction. I traced the trouble to a misplaced jumper which told the computer to look for an external terminal to talk on. I had none hooked up so the machine was confused. I changed the jumper to instruct the computer to give answers to me via lights on its front panel. Be careful to wire all internal jumpers correctly.

The Altair 680 is only 11 inches wides, 11 inches deep and 5 inches high. The main circuit board lies flat in the bottom of the cabinet. There is room above the main board for three additional memory boards to expand the quantity of information your computer can hold.

The second board in the bare-bones 680 kit is mounted vertically behind the front panel. This is the display board that holds 12 of those 56 integrated circuit chips, 27 toggle switches and 27 LEDs (light-emitting diodes which look like tiny red lights). The display board plugs directly into the main PC board via a 100-pin connector on the front edge of the horizontal board.

Want to watch over all temperatures inside your house in the winter and shut off your furnace when excessive fuel is being used? Want to take a fantasy ride to the Moon in a Lunar Lander game? Want Junior to have a tireless partner for math homework practice? A microcomputer system is the answer.

These "black boxes" can play endless games and help you tune up your car even as they keep track of family nutrition records and financial budgets. And an ideal way to get started in hobby computers is with the 680. It, some extra memory capacity and a companion terminal will permit you to process words and numbers and do chores your neighbor hasn't even dreamed of. You could buy the 680 already wired and tested for $625, by the way, but why not get right down to the nitty-gritty? Build your own for $466 and get going with America's next great home appliance. ★★★

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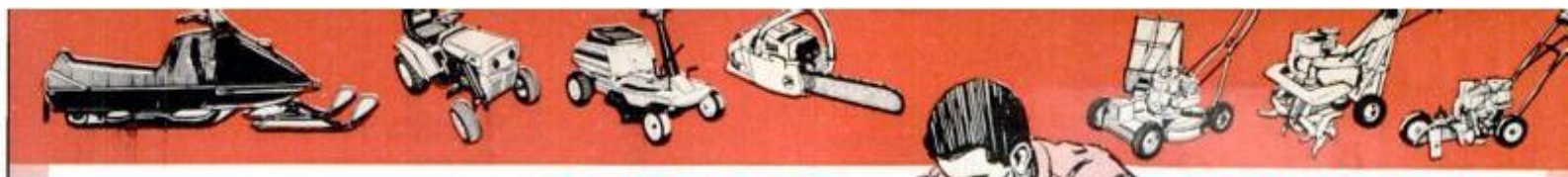

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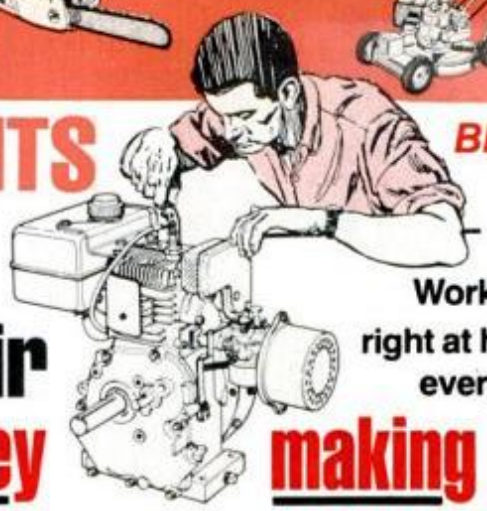

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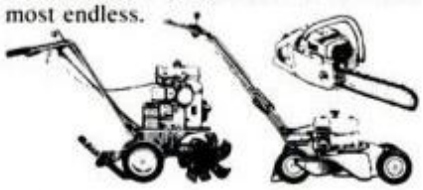

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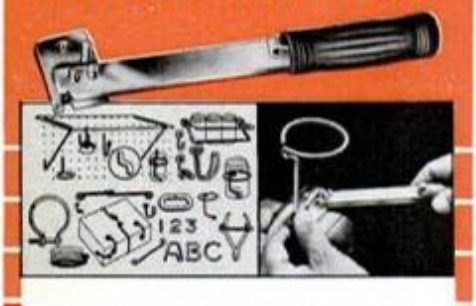

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speakers in a large room, or multiple sets of speakers in different rooms around your house, you can use the money you saved on the preamp to buy a monster power amplifier. And if your needs change, you can replace just one component, rather than the entire amplifying system.

First pick your power

The first steps in picking an amplifier are usually to decide how much power you need, decide what control facilities you want, see what's available in your price range, then figure how many watts and controls you're willing to do without to come within your budget. With kits, of course, you won't have to trim your list quite so much because of the money you'll save by doing your own building.

For most people, power will be the only specification really worth considering. The other specs are pretty comparable among today's kit amps. And though there are *slight* differences in sound between them (Dynaco's Stereo 150, for example, had noticeably tighter bass and slightly sharper treble than its older Stereo 120), you'd have to listen to several amplifiers a long time to really hear the difference.

Since some audiophiles feel there is a noticeable difference between the sound of tube and transistor amplifiers, Dynaco offers several power amplifiers that use tubes—their latest, in fact, is a tube model. Whether or not you hear that difference, you might appreciate the tube amplifiers' greater tolerance for such electrical abuse as shorted speaker leads. This makes tube amplifiers popular among public-address-system engineers and among audiophiles with children.

Controls: where to find them

Power amplifiers need no controls at all, but most have on-off switches, quite a few have power-level meters (handy for checking channel balance and operation, but mainly to assuage your curiosity), and many have level controls for easier accommodation of a wide range of preamplifiers, or easy inter-channel balancing.

More and more amplifiers now offer plug-in speaker connections. That's handy, especially with the heavier amps, because you can wire the connector before you slide the amplifier into position, while connections are still easy to see and get at. The Heath 400-watt amp uses special plugs that can only be inserted one way, to make sure your

(Please turn to page 168)

Heath's 'Module I'; it's more than just a preamp

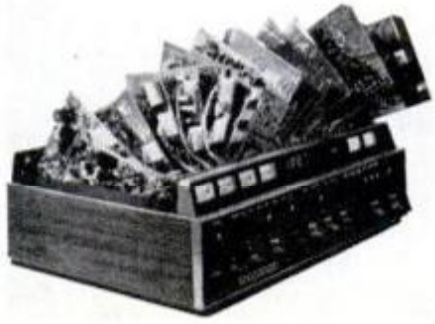
Heath's new AN-2016 "Modulus" is an unusual combination: A preamp with an AM-FM stereo tuner built in. That gives you the convenience of having all your controls in one place while keeping your power amplifier tucked out of the way. It also, as with any preamp, lets you choose how much amplifier power you want.

The AN-2016, "Module I" in the new Heath series, is by far the most complex—and versatile—piece of gear we tested. After about 50 hours of construction time and $599.95, you'll have a preamp that can handle stereo records and four-channel tapes superbly and a digital readout tuner. The tuner's FM section performs as well as almost any FM tuner on the market, and its AM section is almost as good as most hi-fi FM tuners and a great deal better than any of the run-of-the-mill AM tuner sections now on the market.

Control features include output level meters for all four channels, signal-strength and channel center tuning meters, front-panel tape-dubbing jacks, and pushbuttons that light to show which are activated. And there's a relay that cuts the preamp's output when you turn the power on and off—this keeps amplified switch clicks from blowing out your speakers.

As the name implies, the AN-2016 has modular construction. You can build and install additional modules whenever you need them. Module IV ($39.95) is a noise-reduction circuit for Dolby-encoded FM broadcasts. Module V ($79.95) is a demodulator for CD-4 discrete four-channel records, and Module VI ($49.95) is a decoder for SQ four-channel discs. Total building time for the AN-2016 and these three modules is about 50 hours.

Modules II and III don't fit inside the AN-2016: They're independent stereo amplifiers of 35 and 60 watts, respectively, per channel, whose front panels match that of the Module I.



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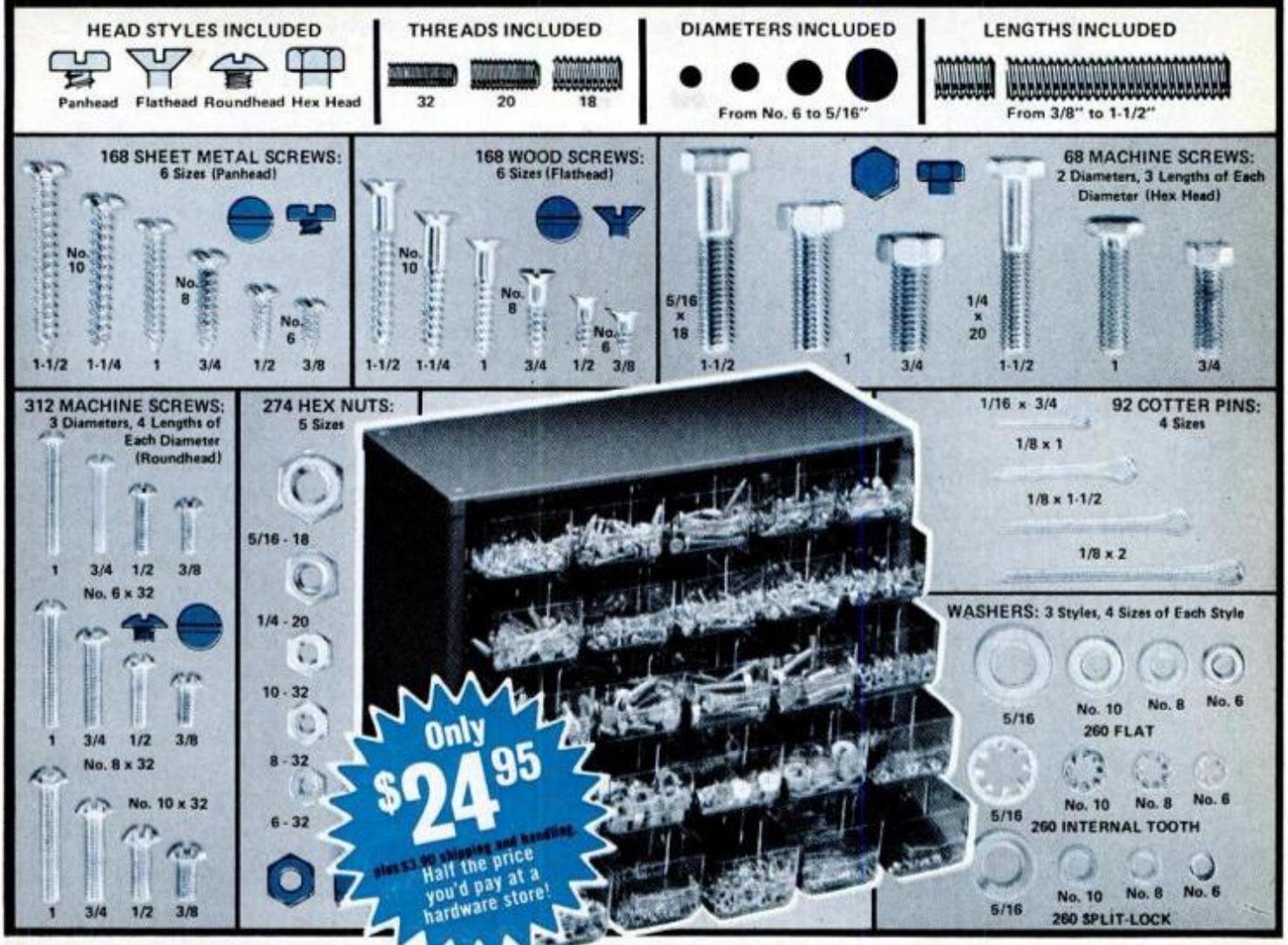

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speakers are in phase with one another. The Dyna and Schober amps, on the other hand, use "double-banana" jacks whose plugs can be inserted either way, so if you've wired a plug incorrectly, you can just reverse it in its socket to correct the phasing. These jacks are combined with binding posts that also take bare wires or spade lugs. And the Ace amplifier has spring-loaded terminals that lock onto bare wire ends.

The Dynakit 400 has an additional switch, for its "Dynaguard" circuit that lets brief, high-power signals through but limits long, speaker-damaging ones. This control and circuit are omitted, though, from Dyna's stripped Model 410.

Preamps and integrated amplifiers have more elaborate controls. Make sure the one you get has enough inputs and tape monitor loops to handle all the other components you intend to hook up to it.

Dynaco's preamplifiers have exceptionally flexible inputs, including one which can be wired for a second turntable, a microphone or for a tape deck with no electronics of its own (though such decks are quite rare these days). Dyna's PAT-5 ($239) also has two tape-monitor loops and provision to control your power amplifier's output, switching it to various speakers or to a headphone jack in the PAT-5's panel.

The Ace Model ZDP "zero-distortion" preamplifier has only selector and volume controls and a power switch—to eliminate distortion, it eliminates all circuits except the phono preamp stage.

If you need higher output levels, you can wire in the amplication circuits that turn the Ace into a Model BSP; they're included in the kit, so you can wire it either way.

How kit companies compare

All it takes to build an amplifier kit is a little manual dexterity and patience. But some kits are trickier than others (power amplifiers are easiest), so take your time. And there are differences between the ways each company designs kits, as well as in the number of kits they offer.

■ **Ace Audio** (447 Elwood Rd., East Northport, N.Y. 11731) provides minimal instructions. On the preamplifier kit, for example, you're told how to install components on half the board, then just told that the other half is wired the same way. But there's so little wiring in an Ace kit that neither the preamplifier nor the 35-watt-per-channel stereo power amp ($150) should take long or be hard to build.

■ **Dynaco** (Box 88, Blackwood, N.J. 08012) offers more complete, step-by-step instructions, and builds most of the printed-circuit boards for you. That makes Dynakits about the fastest and easiest to build.

Dyna offers two transistor preamps one tube-type preamp, a 30x2-watt stereo integrated amp, and 10 power amps: monophonic tube amplifiers of 50 and 100 watts, solid-state stereo amplifiers of 20, 40, 60, 75, 150 and 200 watts per channel, and a 4-channel, 75x4-watt amp (the 150x2-watt amp can be converted into this).

■ **Heath** (Benton Harbor, Mich. 49022) goes overboard in its instruction manuals to make sure that anyone, even people with absolutely no training in electronics, can build one of their kits and have it work. There are drawings to go with each step and complete troubleshooting guides if you encounter difficulties. Heath even provides solder.

Heath currently offers a stereo preamp ($130) the "Module I" tuner/preamp combination (see page 166), stereo-integrated amps of 15, 35 and 70 watts per channel, four-channel amps of 15 and 35 watts per channel, and a 3¼-watt monophonic integrated amp. Their stereo power amplifiers offer 35, 60 and 200 watts per channel.

■ **Schober Organ Corp.** (413 West 61 St., New York, N.Y. 10023) designed its amplifiers for use with electronic organs, so they're solidly built to withstand abuse. Their manuals, too, are designed for the builders of their organ kits, who are often more interested in music than in electronics, so the kits aren't hard to build.

Schober makes two amplifiers: a 70-watt monophonic model ($176) and a 70-watt-per-channel stereo model ($240).

■ **Southwest Technical Products** or SWTP (219 West Rhapsody, San Antonio, Tex. 78216) designs kits and writes manuals for the experienced kit builder. If you've never built a kit, you may have to read each instruction a few times to get the point; but you can probably get the kit built if you're willing to take the time.

SWTP kits are exceptionally low-priced ($75 for a stereo preamp, $41 for a 15x20 and $70 for a 25x2-watt stereo amp, $78 for a 60-watt mono and $155 for a 250-watt mono amp), and their circuits are well-designed. But the low price shows in the hardware used. ★★★

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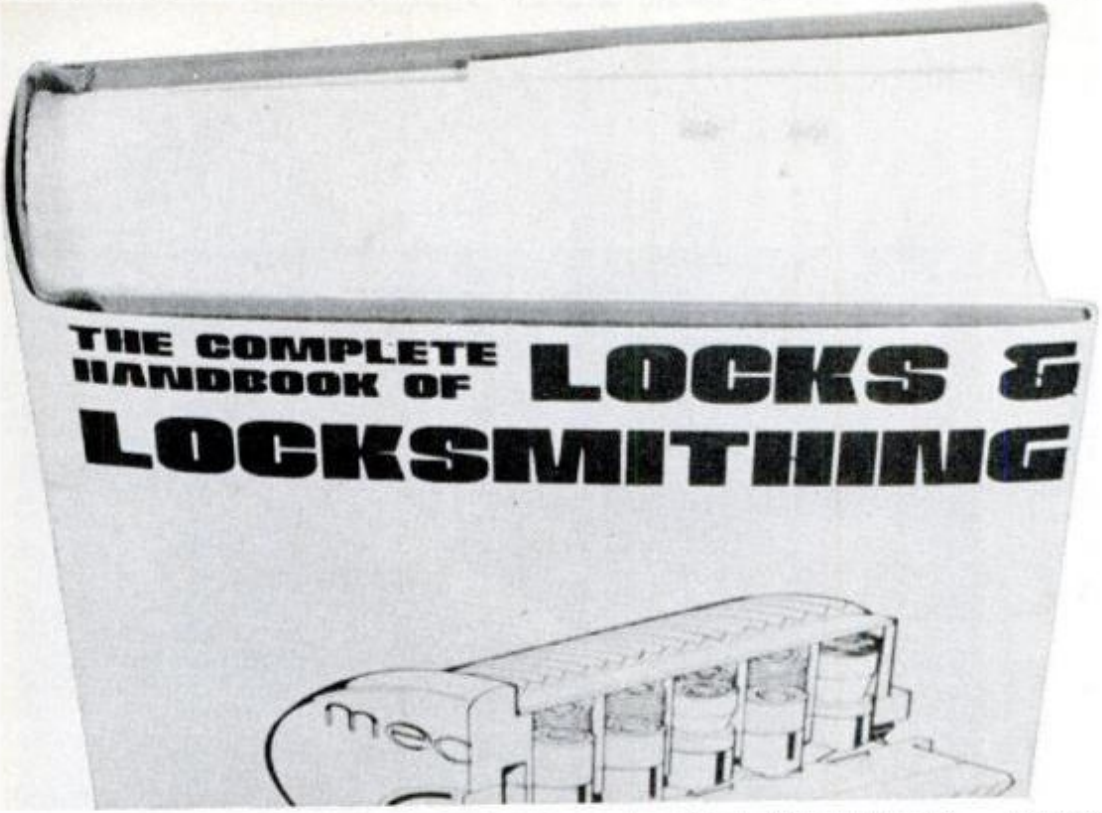

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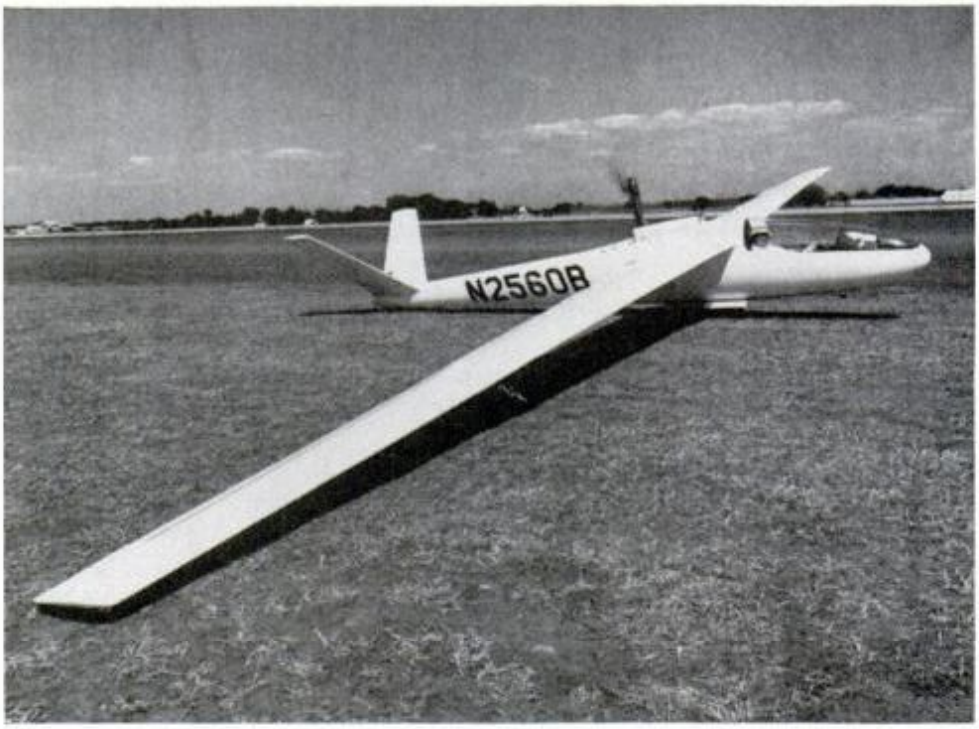
It's a plane, it's a glider . . . it's both!

by Sheldon M. Gallager

PM photos: Howard Levy

As sailboat owners have long known, it doesn't hurt to have a little auxiliary engine power to get you home if the wind quits or a storm blows up. Now many glider enthusiasts are coming to the same conclusion—a little booster on the back can be a big help. Shown here are a new breed of self-powered sailplanes—"motorgliders" as the clever hybrids are called. Even hang gliders are taking on power—a factor said to greatly reduce the hazards of air surfing. And there's good news for do-it-yourselfers: You can build some designs from plans or kits.

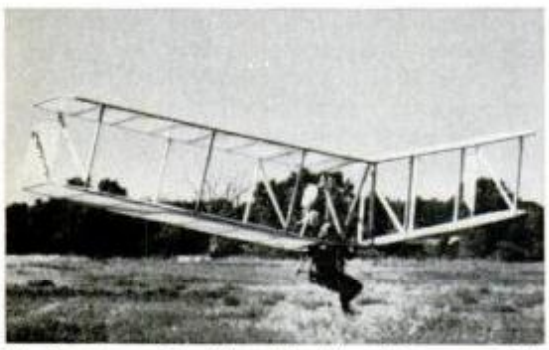
Why power? Because engine-equipped sailplanes can take off under their own power, you don't need a tow plane to get airborne—often costly or not readily available. You just start your engine and you're off. If you run out of thermals to ride on, you can restart the engine, climb to soaring altitude, cut power and glide freely. If you stray a bit too far from home or encounter a sudden squall, you can switch back to power and return quickly.

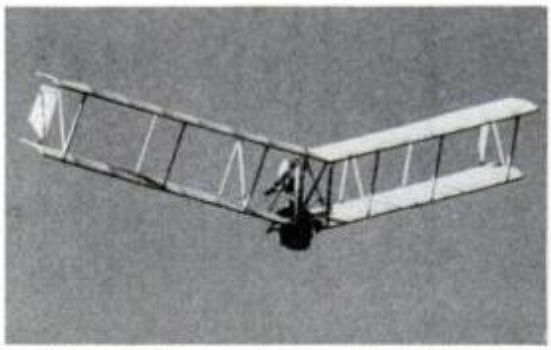


This long-wing beauty started out as conventional unpowered sailplane, but designer Vern Oldershaw decided to add auxiliary power for self-launch takeoffs and long-range soaring. Ingenious retractable prop (lower photos above) folds into fuselage well for free flight to eliminate drag, can be raised or lowered during flight, is automatically self-aligning to fit in well. Engine is 30-hp Yamaha; wingspan, 55 feet; overall length, 23 feet; speed, 125 mph; climb rate, 400 fpm.

Power vs. free flight

Does auxiliary power compromise the sport of free-flight soaring? Some sailplane purists may not agree, but those who have tried it say no—they like the greater freedom, range and safety that power assist affords. First, added engine weight is minimal—not enough to affect glider performance. Many use small garden-tractor or snowmobile engines weighing as little as 12 pounds (a favorite choice is the tiny 12-hp, 12-pound McCulloch 101 powerplant). Second, auxiliary pow-





No jumping off cliffs with this self-powered hang glider. Just start the engine, take a few steps and you're airborne (center). Craft is standard Icarus II biwinger fitted with 12-hp McCulloch powerplant (right). Engine can be stopped in midair for free flight, then restarted at any time to gain altitude or get safely home. Complete kit, including engine, is about $1300.

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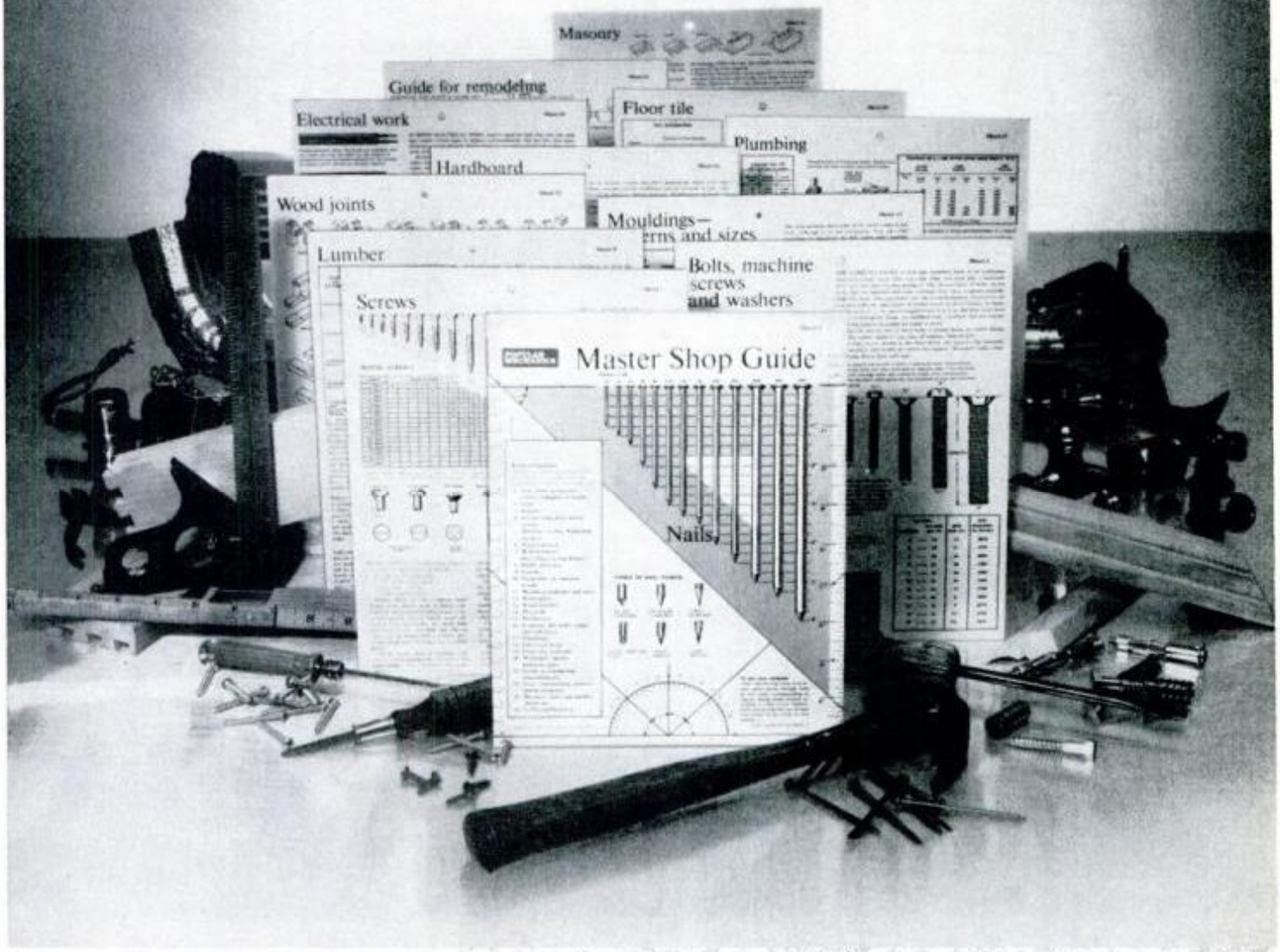

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er is used only for self-launch take-offs and climbing when adverse weather conditions rule out conventional soaring techniques. Speeds under power approach or exceed 100 mph, with climb rates of 300 to 500 feet per minute (fpm). Glide ratios in free flight range up to a respectable 27 to 1—as good as for many unpowered sailplanes.

Here's a rundown on what's available where and for how much:

■ **Powered Icarus II** hang glider developed by John Moody. Information package is $5; complete kit with engine, about $1300. Ultralight Flying Machines of Wisconsin, Box 21867, Milwaukee, Wis. 53221.

■ **Catto Aircraft,** also offering powered hang gliders. Box 1619, Cupertino, Calif. 95014.

■ **Marske-Monarch.** Plans are $60 from Jim Marske, 130 Crestwood Dr., Michigan City, Ind. 46360.

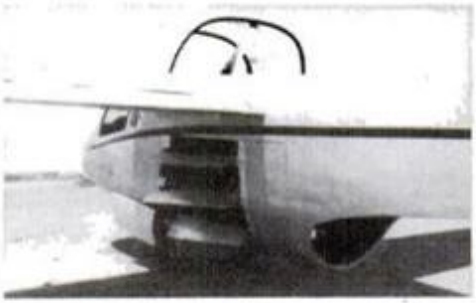
■ **American Eaglet.** Complete kit about $2000, AmEagle Corp., 841 Winslow Court, Muskegon, Mich. 49441.

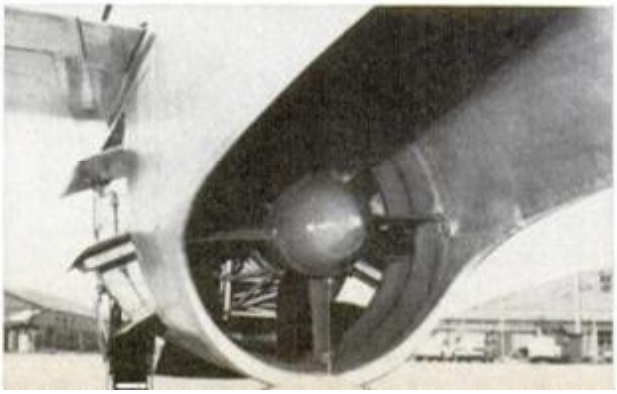
■ **Oldershaw.** Marketing plans not yet certain. Information from Vern Oldershaw, 2508 Talisman Dr., Bakersfield, Calif. 93304. ★★★

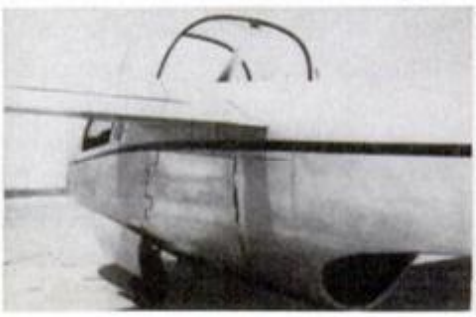
Flying wing at right has vertical fin and rudder but no horizontal tail—elevator panels are in wing along with ailerons. Pilot sits in pod slung under wing, using overhead control stick. Engine is 12-hp McCulloch mounted in rear of pod with pusher prop. Called Monarch, fiberglass craft takes off in 50 feet, climbs 500 fpm, has 70-mph top speed. Wingspan is 39 feet; length, 11½ feet. Plans are $60.

Trim little speedster at left can hit 100 mph under power, yet has a remarkably high glide ratio of 27 to 1 in free flight—as good as many commercial non-powered sailplanes. Like the Monarch above, it has a 12-hp engine mounted in rear of cockpit pod. Unique spring-loaded prop blades (shown being held open below) fold when power is cut to reduce drag. Centrifugal force opens blades under power. Called American Eaglet, craft comes as kit for $1995.

Biggest motorglider now flying is this experimental Japanese two-seater destined to go into commercial production later. Built by Japan Aircraft Mfg. Co., Ltd. of Yokohama, it has a 63-hp Kawasaki three-cylinder motorcycle engine. Prop is shrouded in circular housing under tail boom (below) to provide ducted-fan effect for maximum thrust. Air-intake slats (far right) operate like Venetian blind, opening for powered flight, closing for free flight to avoid drag. Top speed is 160 mph; stall speed with flaps, 40. Wingspan is 59 feet; length, 26; climb rate, 390 fpm; glide ratio, 30 to 1. Sale price not yet determined.







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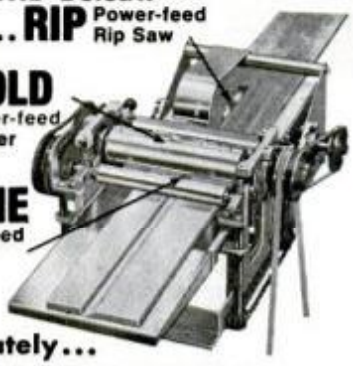

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Jay Hedden, Editor
Workbench Magazine

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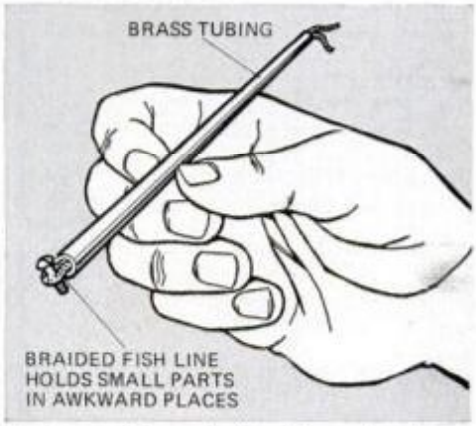
HINTS

FROM READERS

Cable stripper

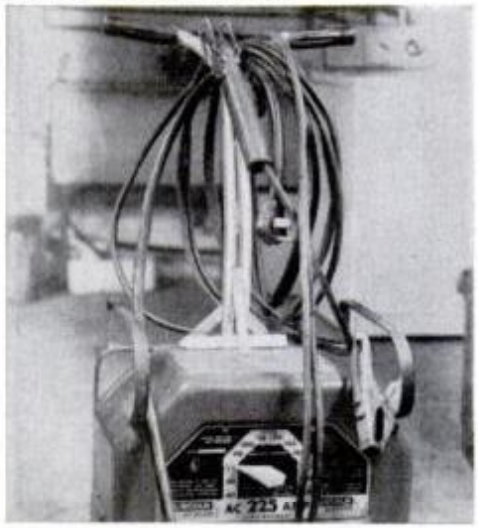
Make a cable stripper from a clothespin and a single-edge injector blade. Remove the clothespin spring and cut a 1¼-in. slot in one jaw. Glue the blade in the slot, cutting edge inward, and reassemble. Rotate the clothespin to cut the cable. —*Max Calkin*

Miniature snares



Hold small parts in otherwise inaccessible places with miniature snares made from brass tubing and braided fishing line.—*Ken Suiter*

Handy welder handle



Improve the portability of your welder or other bulky equipment by bolting a lawnmower handle to the machine.—*Dave Robinson*

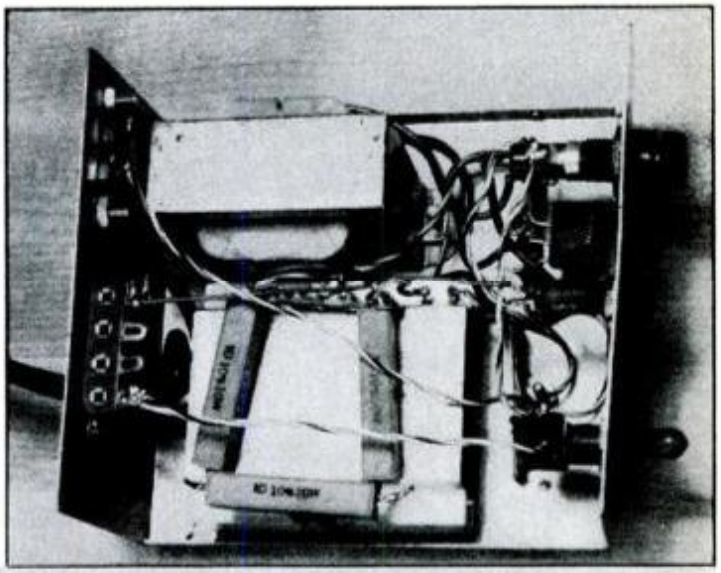
Материал, защищенный авторским правом

Bring your car stereo or mobile CB home with this 12-v. power supply

by William D. Goldberg

PM photos: Madeline Silver

Easy to build and inexpensive, this power supply delivers 2 amps. of well-filtered d.c. to drive your car's CB or stereo tape unit from a 120-volt a.c. line.

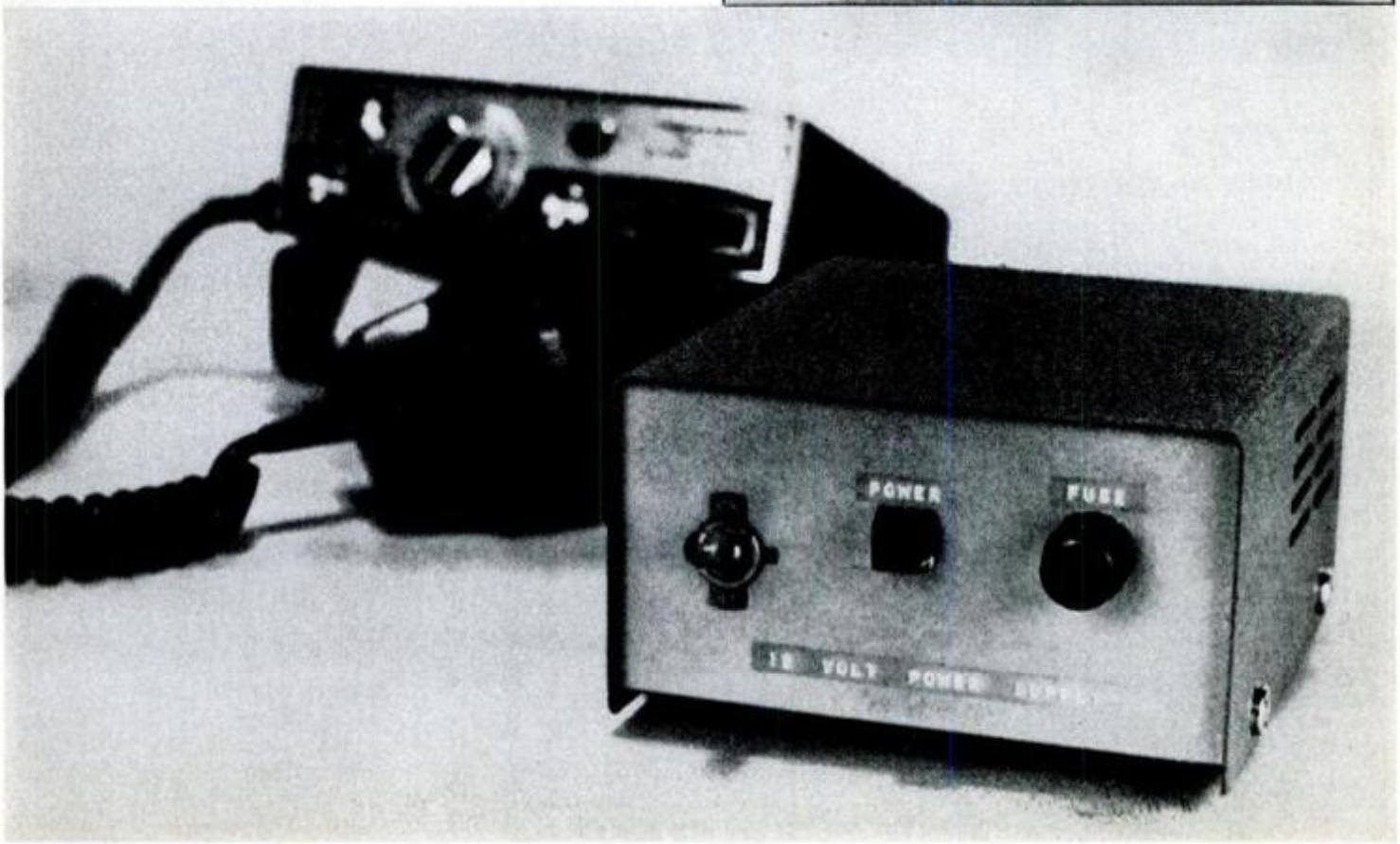


You can get double duty from your car's CB or stereo by playing it indoors; and it's safer from theft in your living room than in your driveway. All it takes is a simple power supply like this one to turn your home's 120-volt a.c. into a 12-volt d.c. supply that your car's electrical and electronic accessories can use. And you can build it for about $20.

Construction is simple: Lay out all components in your cabinet approximately as shown at right. (Minor changes may have to be made if you use a different cabinet or components, but parts layout is not critical.) Using your components as templates, drill all mounting holes. To make the rectangular cutout for the screw terminal panel, drill a hole about $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in diameter, mark the rectangle around the hole, then file out the square (you can also use a nibbling tool or keyhole saw).

Before mounting the transformer, you must identify its leads: The two black wires are the primary leads, and the two red wires and one yellow wire are the secondary leads. The yellow wire is a center tap from

(Please turn to page 176)



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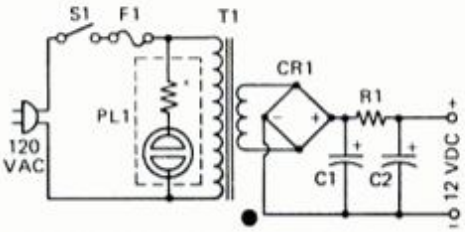
12-V. POWER SUPPLY

(Continued from page 175)

the secondary winding; you won't need it, so cut off this wire.

Mount the transformer, the switch and all terminal strips first. The bridge rectifier (CR1) is mounted on a five-terminal strip attached to the chassis just behind the front panel—you can just see it, a flat black box between the pilot light and fuse in the interior-view photo. Mount it horizontally, wired according to the schematic; be sure not to wire it to the center, grounded terminal of the strip. When soldering the rectifier's leads, be sure to clamp a heat sink (pliers or tweezers will do) to the leads, and don't use a soldering iron that's rated more than 30 watts.



*RESISTOR BUILT INTO LAMP ASSEMBLY

PARTS LIST

C1—2000-mf, 35-v. electrolytic capacitor (Radio Shack 272-1020)
C2—1000-mf, 35-v. electrolytic capacitor (Radio Shack 272-1019)
R1 (R1a, R1b, R1c)—1-ohm, 10-w. resistors (3) (Radio Shack 271-131)
T1—120-v. pri., 12.6-v. sec., 3-amp. transformer (Radio Shack 273-1511)
CR1—50-R.I.V., 6-amp. bridge rectifier (Radio Shack 276-1146)
PL1—120-v. neon lamp (Radio Shack 272-704)
S1—S.P.S.T. 120-v., 3-amp. switch (Radio Shack 275-602)
ST1—Screw terminals (Radio Shack 274-663 or 274-315)
F1—3-amp., 120-v. fuse and fuse holder (Radio Shack 270-1276; 270-364)
TS1, TS2, TS3, TS4, TS5—Terminal strips (Radio Shack 274-688)
Cabinet—3x5¼x5⅞" (Radio Shack 270-253)
Misc.—Line cord, hookup wire, rubber grommet, bolts, nuts and washers.

Resistor R1 is actually composed of three separate resistors, connected in series. Each is a 1-ohm, 10-watt type, for a total of 3 ohms and 30 watts.

When installing capacitors C1 and C2, be sure to follow proper polarity. Incorrect polarity will cause the circuit to malfunction and will ruin the capacitors. Again, do not use the grounded, center terminals of the terminal strips.

The circuit is simple: The transformer steps your 120-volt a.c. line power down to 12.6 volts. The bridge rectifier then converts this to pulsating d.c. Capacitors C1 and C2 and resistor R1 filter out the pulsations to minimize problems of hum or buzz. Output is 12 volts d.c. at 2 amps. continuous, 3 amps. maximum. ★★★

Материал защищенный авторским правом

Car insurance: How your rates are set

You might be able to save some money once you understand the system.

by Robert Clayton

A great many people are in the dark as to what auto insurance is all about. How are insurance premiums established? Why are they going up? Can they be kept down? What do all those words in the policy mean?

Let's assume you need auto insurance and head for your local independent agent—a businessman who represents up to 20 different insurance companies. The first, most basic question he will have in determining which company is best for you is what type of coverage you want or need—and what amount. Here are the types of coverages:

Liability coverage

An automobile in operation can cause injury. Because this can happen any time you get behind the wheel of your car, liability insurance is the most important type of auto insurance you can carry. It protects you and your family against claims and judgments for damage or injury caused by the vehicle. Keep in mind that this does not cover your car, but, by covering damages or injuries which might have been caused by you, can protect you financially from far greater losses than you could possibly suffer through damage to your own vehicle.

Within specified limits, this type of insurance protects you and your family in almost any car you drive and even protects people who have borrowed your car. The important thing to remember is that liability insurance should be broad enough in scope to cover court costs, lawyer's fees, costs of appeal bonds, bail bonds and bonds to release any attachments on your assets.

Author Robert Clayton is president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

Medical payments coverage

Within specified limits, this insurance covers the costs of any medical expenses incurred by you or any relative living with you for any auto accidents, *even if you or they are pedestrians.* It also covers any medical expenses of a guest in your car or another victim in the accident.

Collision coverage

This protects your car if it is involved in an accident, irrespective of whom is to blame. With this coverage you are covered for the full amount of the damage to your car, less the deductible amount.

Comprehensive coverage

This insures your car against almost all losses, except for those involving collision. It covers loss or damage from things like fire, theft, vandalism and storms.

Rating factors

Now that we've outlined the types of auto insurance coverage that are available, we can go into the factors that go into each and which, in the final analysis, will determine just how much your insurance premiums will be. In order to do this, we will have to take each type of coverage separately, since they are not all arrived at in the same way.

Factors for liability

As we mentioned before, liability insurance covers damage and injury that you've caused—but not damage, injury or loss to you.

A. *Territorial rating.* The first determinant your insurance agent must consider is strictly geographical. The basic rate varies throughout the country, with each state being divided into "rating terri-

(Please turn to page 178)

EXAMPLES OF MULTIPLICATION FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE AUTO INSURANCE RATES*

	1. Effect of good-student discounts		2. Effect of driver-training discount		3. Effect of marital status		4. Effect of ownership of car		5. Car usage		6. Effect of driver's sex	
Age	With discount	Without discount	With training	Without training	Married	Single	Owneror principal operator	Not owner or principal operator	Pleasure	Drive to work or for business	Male	Female
17	2.70	3.50	3.10	3.50	1.95	3.50	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.65	3.50	1.75
18	2.50	3.30	2.90	3.30	1.85	3.30	3.30	2.55	3.30	3.45	3.30	1.60
19	2.30	3.10	2.70	3.10	1.75	3.10	3.10	2.40	3.10	3.25	3.10	1.50
20	2.10	2.85	2.55	2.85	1.65	2.85	2.85	2.25	2.85	3.00	2.85	1.25
21	2.05	2.50	2.50	2.50	1.50	2.50	2.50	1.90	2.50	2.65	2.50	1.15
22	2.00	2.35	2.35	2.35	1.40	2.35	2.35	1.70	2.35	2.50	2.35	1.10
23	1.95	2.20	2.20	2.20	1.30	2.20	2.20	1.55	2.20	2.35	2.20	1.05
24	1.90	2.05	2.05	2.05	1.20	2.05	2.05	1.35	2.05	2.20	2.05	1.00
25	†	1.90	1.90	1.90	†	1.90	1.90	†	1.90	2.05	1.90	1.00
26	†	1.75	1.75	1.75	†	1.75	1.75	†	1.75	1.90	1.75	1.00
27	†	1.55	1.55	1.55	†	1.55	1.55	†	1.55	1.70	1.55	1.00
28	†	1.40	1.40	1.40	†	1.40	1.40	†	1.40	1.55	1.40	1.00
29	†	1.25	1.25	1.25	†	1.25	1.25	†	1.25	1.40‡	1.25	1.00

*Multiplication factor can be converted to percent by moving decimal point two places to the right.
†Classed as nonyouthful driver. ‡If car is driven 10 miles or more to work or if it is used for business.

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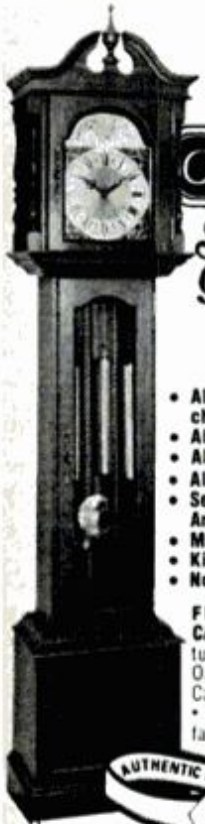

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CAR INSURANCE

(Continued from page 177)

tories." A rating territory could be part of a county, a rural area, a suburb, a large city—or even part of a large city. For each such territory, statistics have been compiled about claims involving cars owned in that area, irrespective of where the accident occurred. If a driver from Missouri is responsible for an accident which occurred in Florida, it is the Missouri rates that will be affected and not Florida's. The basic rate is derived from the "loss experience" of a rating territory. But this is for the basic rate. Other factors are then applied to arrive at your particular premium rate. For now, remember that each rating territory starts from its own base.

B. *Characteristics of the insured and his vehicle.* This is a factor—a multiplier—which is used to modify the basic rate determined from your rating territory. A factor of 1.5 means that you would be required to pay 50 percent more than the base rate for your liability coverage. A factor of 2.0 would double your liability premium, while a 3.0 would triple it.

Editor's note: The system for determining auto insurance rates given here is for motorists insured by all insurance companies nationwide. Motorists unable to find a company willing to insure them must turn to the assigned-risk plan at generally higher rates.

Once we reach the point of evaluating the driver, there are a bewildering number of variables which we have attempted to simplify with the accompanying charts.

1. *Youthful operator.* Even if you are above the age where you could be considered a youthful operator, you may have a son or daughter who puts you into this category—or will in a few years. Knowing what the variables are could help you save quite a bit.

■ *Good-student discount.* Let your agent know whether your son or daughter qualifies for this discount. This can amount to quite a bit. If your basic territorial rate is $100, a 17-year-old son without a good-student discount could drive this premium up to $350 while, with a good discount, the premium would be $270.

To be eligible for a good-student discount, your son or daughter must be in the top 20 percent of the class, have a average of B or better or be mentioned on the "dean's list," "honor roll" or the equivalent.

(Please turn to page 180)

TWO-DIGIT AUTOMOBILE COST-RATING SYSTEM

FIRST DIGIT:

For 1976 and later model years—

Classification	Retail price of new car
1	$ 0 - $1,600
2	1,601 - 2,100
3	2,101 - 2,750
4	2,751 - 3,700
5	3,701 - 5,000
6	5,001 - 6,500
7	6,501 - 8,000
8	8,001 - 10,000
9	Not used
10	10,001 - 12,500
11	12,501 - 15,000
12	15,001 - 17,500
13	17,501 20,000
14	20,001 and above

For 1976 and earlier model years, Class 7 is $6,500 to $10,000. Anything above $10,000 is 5% per $1,000.

SECOND DIGIT:

Class	Auto age
1	First model year (as of Oct. 1 of previous year)
2	One to two years old
3	Two to three years old
4	Three to four years old
5	Four to five years old
6	Six years or older (a 10-year-old and a 17-year-old car are rated the same)

Note: For calculation of premiums, classes 2 and 3 carry the same premium. Similarly, classes 4 and 5 are grouped for calculation of premium.

Sample of rating classification: A car rated at 8-2 is a two-year-old auto that retailed new between $8,100 and $10,000.

NONYOUTHFUL OPERATORS*

Status of operator	Pleasure use	Drive to work 10 miles or less	Drive to work more than 10 miles	Business use	Farm use
Only operator in household is a female age 30-64	.90	1.05	1.30	1.35	.75
Principal operator is age 65 or over	.95	1.10	1.35	1.40	.80
All other	1.00	1.15	1.40	1.45	.85

*Multiplication factor can be converted to percent by moving decimal point two places to the right.

Richard Petty,
NRI Automotive Consultant,
and America's Winningest
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Richard Petty says, "I like the way NRI home training teaches professional auto servicing."

Their Up-To-Date Courses Can Prepare You for Part-Time Income or a Career

When your life depends on the mechanical performance of a car, you get to know and appreciate top mechanics. And believe me, they're few and far between. If there ever was a field where opportunity is knocking, this is it.

I'm sure glad to see professional home training like the two NRI courses come along. With NRI training, you can keep your present job while you learn, and you get the kind of hands-on experience that pays off under the hood. It's a lot of training for the money.

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CAR INSURANCE

(Continued from page 178)

■ *Driver training discount.* It pays to take driver training as the figures in the table indicate. The same 17-year-old without a good-student discount, but with driver training, would have a factor of 3.10 instead of 3.50.

If he had both a good-student discount *and* driver training, the factor for the 17-year-old would drop to 2.50 (it could be even lower, as we will show later).

■ *Marital status.* If your son is married, the premium will be far less than if he is single. This doesn't reflect prejudice on the part of the insurance companies. Instead, it reflects statistics which show that married drivers have a lower accident rate than single drivers. This is particularly true of young males.

■ *Effect of ownership of car.* It is cheaper for you if the ownership of the car remains in your name and not in junior's. If we now put together most of the factors, we find that if your son has a good-student discount, a driver training discount, is single and is not the owner, the factor is 1.80, instead of the 3.50 it would be without the discounts we've discussed so far. That same multiplier on a base $100 premium means that liability coverage would cost you $180 compared to $350.

■ *Car usage.* How you use the car also affects the premium rate. Again, the comparison has been made for the youthful driver.

■ *Effect of driver's sex.* An unmarried young female pays far less than does her male counterpart. If the female is married, she is treated, as far as insurance ratings are concerned, as a nonyouthful operator.

2. *Nonyouthful operators.* The nonyouthful operator gets quite a break, rating-wise. Who qualifies as a nonyouthful operator? Obviously, all men over the age which qualifies them as youthful operators fall into this category. So do unmarried women, age 30-64, and married women of any age.

Strange as it may seem, a 17-year-old female who marries is considered a nonyouthful operator, while her husband, perhaps a few years older than she, is still considered a youthful operator.

All men and women over the age of 65 are, obviously, nonyouthful operators, but are classified separately.

3. *Driver safety record.* Safety rating factors are divided into subclasses 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 based on the number of driving record points accrued by the driver.

One point is assigned for each accident caused by the driver or anyone in his household which results in bodily injury, death or damage in excess of $200. In addition, a point is assigned on conviction for any moving traffic violation for which the operator's license was suspended or revoked.

Two points are assigned for the accumulation of points under a state point system or a series of convictions which result in the requirement of the operator to file evidence of financial responsibility under any financial responsibility law.

Three points are assigned to anyone convicted of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure to stop and/or report an accident in which the operator was involved, homicide or assault arising out of the operation of a vehicle or driving during a period when the operator's license was suspected or revoked.

4. *Car safety rating factors.* If we forget, for the moment, about driver capability, how much does the type of car contribute to accident frequency? Enough so that rating factors have been established. Because they have contributed to the frequency of accidents out of proportion to their numbers, high-performance cars have been penalized most heavily in these rating so that owning such a car can add 30 percent to your liability insurance premium, while an intermediate-performance car can increase your premium by 15 percent.

EFFECT OF DRIVER SAFETY RECORD ON RATING FACTOR*

Risk code	0	1	2	3	4
Single car	0.00	+0.40	+0.90	+1.50	+2.20
Multicar (for each car)	–0.15	+0.05	+0.30	+0.60	+0.95

*Multiplication factor can be converted to percent by moving decimal point two places to the right.

Factors for comprehensive

In many respects, comprehensive coverage rating factors are similar to those of liability coverage. To begin with, there is a territorial rating to establish the base rate. Driver characteristics are also rated in much the same way as for liability coverage. Since comprehensive coverage is for the protection of your vehicle from damage and since ex-

(Please turn to page 182)

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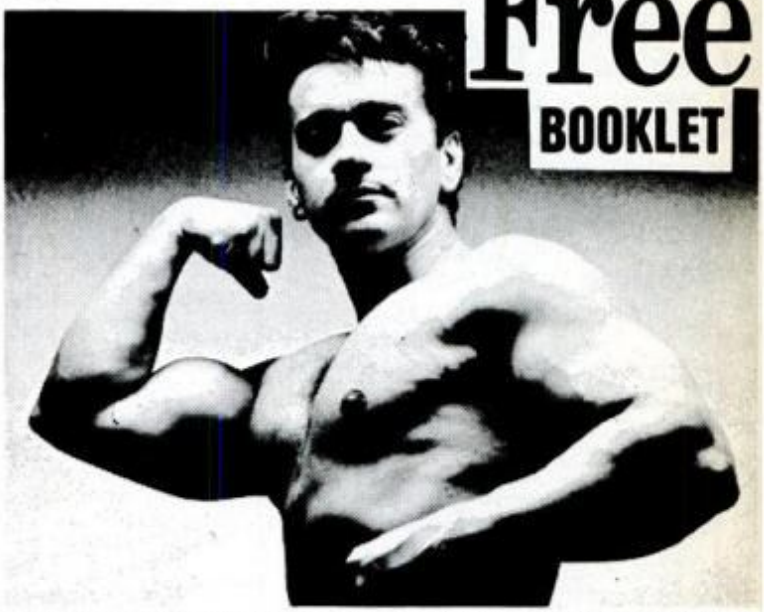

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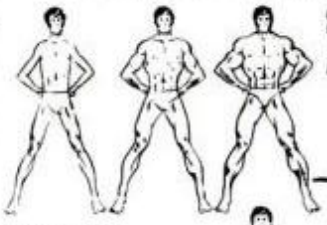

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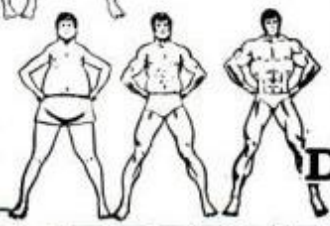

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CAR INSURANCE

(Continued from page 180)

pensive cars generally cost more to repair than inexpensive cars, there is a new rating factor considered—the cost of the vehicle. A second factor is the age of the vehicle, since the value decreases as the age increases (although replacement parts for an older car are not necessarily cheaper than those for a newer auto).

Factors for collision

Basically, the rating factors for collision coverage are calculated in the same way as for comprehensive. The basic rate is set, using a territorial rating factor and is then modified on the basis of driver characteristics (age, sex, marital status, type of driving, safety record) and cost and age of the vehicle.

There is one discount available only for collision coverage which can be called, for want of a better name, "bumper discount." If you own a 1972 or later vehicle with a bumper which has passed front and rear impact tests, speak to your agent about a discount. You may be entitled to a 10 percent cut on your collision premium if your car is one of those that qualifies.

Keeping costs down

Now that we've established there is no mystery regarding how insurance premiums are arrived at, what can you do to keep them as low as possible without sacrificing the protection you need?

To begin with, check with your agent regarding safe-driver plans, which are available in many states. Where available, such plans may save you as much as 20 percent on your premiums.

Not all insurance companies charge the same amount. But watch out. Some companies who charge less also offer less in terms of the coverage extended to you.

Make sure your agent knows it if your son or daughter qualifies for a good-student and/or driving training discount. If your car meets the federal bumper-impact standards or you are in a car pool, you may be eligible for further discounts.

More than one car?

Do you have more than one car in your family? Be sure they are registered in one name so that you qualify for a multicar discount.

Consider higher deductibles on your coverage for collision, fire and theft. You can make substantial savings with higher deductibles, since auto insurance is intended to protect you from major loss rather than minor fender benders. However, be careful not to set deductibles at a level higher than you can comfortably afford in the event of loss or accident. Again, your agent can give you expert advice on the level of deductibles which is right for you.

If your car is five or more years old, you might consider dropping any collision coverage you carry. The cost of such coverage may not be much of a bargain when compared with the replacement cost of your car.

If your son or daughter marries, inform your agent. Your insurance premium will be reduced immediately. The minute your daughter is married, your insurance would be no more than for any adult over 25, while, even with young male drivers who marry, there is a substantial reduction.

Pleasure cars

Premiums go down if a car used to commute to work is no longer used for that purpose. Cars used for pleasure only are a lower accident risk and this is reflected in their lower insurance premiums. Currently, there are small-car discounts which can also lower your premiums.

There may be other savings for which you qualify so, for an overall appraisal of your auto insurance and for tips from a professional to keep your costs down, check with your agent. ★★★

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Make rustic picture frames from barn siding

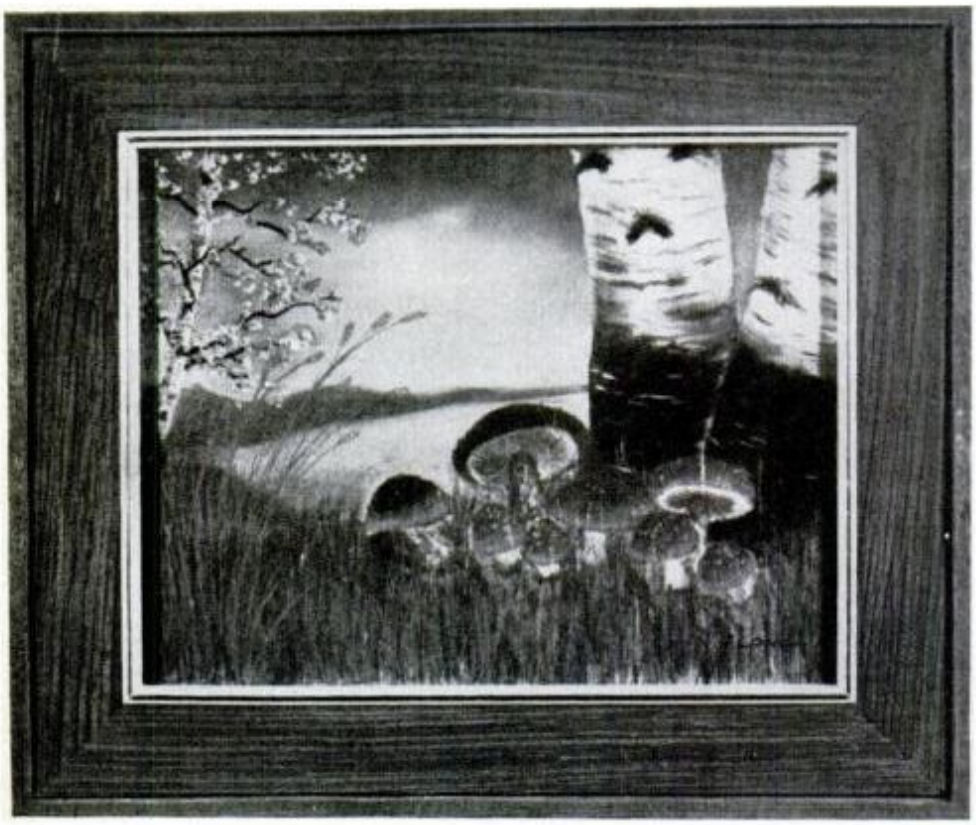
by James A. Long

An old abandoned and weather-beaten farm building may be an eyesore to the countryside, but the boards in it are as good as gold. Weathered barn siding has become a popular and much-sought lumber for remodeling. I find the wood particularly appropriate for framing wildlife prints, nature paintings and landscapes. Its rustic look adds charm to the picture.

A few pieces of this rough-textured wood can usually be had for little or nothing. The thing to remember when you spot a weathered old building on its last legs is that it still belongs to someone and you should not just stop and help yourself. Get the owner's permission to remove a few boards. Probably he will be glad to get rid of them. Pick relatively straight boards and don't worry about nail holes—they add to the overall rustic look. If the boards are wet, they will have to be air-dried for a few days, maybe longer.

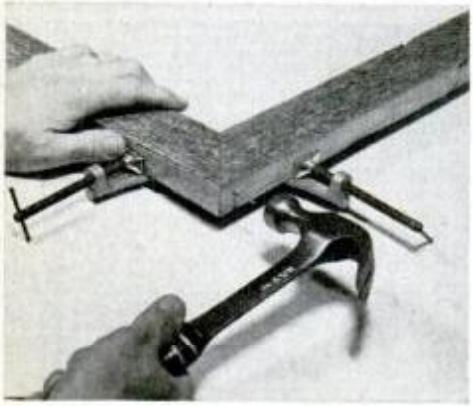
I have made some handsome picture frames from old weathered barn boards. You'll need a miterbox and four picture-frame corner clamps. A table saw makes it easy to run the bead on the inner molding. Follow the steps below and on page 186 and you'll wind up with a beautiful frame that is a part of the picture. ★★★

(More photos on page 186)

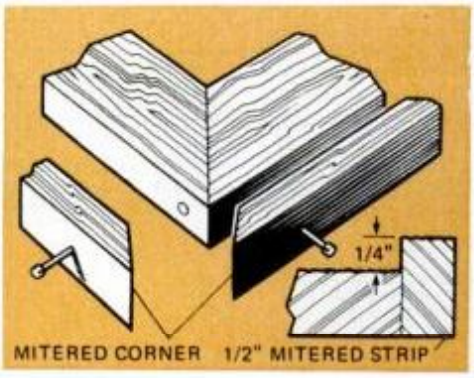


Weathered barn siding makes the perfect frame for a nature painting, as shown at the left. Outer edges of frame are distressed by gouging wood here and there with a sharp knife.

After cleaning, rip boards 2 or 3 in. wide. Lay out picture size on paper, allowing ⅛ in. all around; miter main frame members to fit. Double check size. Butter mitered ends with white glue.



Pull mitered ends together with two-way picture-frame clamps and nail corners while the members are clamped together.



Rip ½ x 1-in. strips, miter ends and nail to outer edges of main frame. Gouge saw-cut edges here and there with knife.

Add to weather-beaten look of the frame by applying a light gray semitransparent shingle stain. Brush with the grain.

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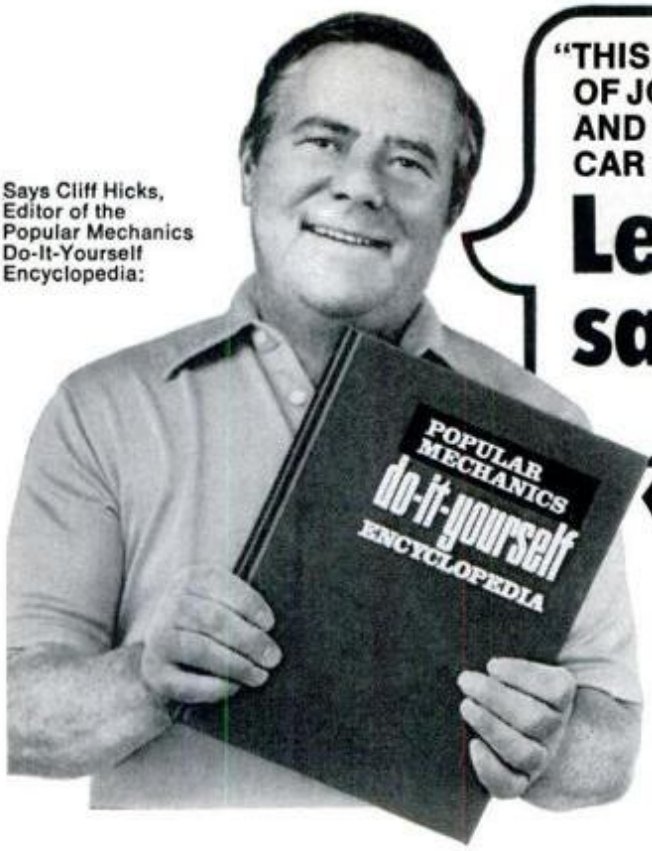
Says Cliff Hicks, Editor of the Popular Mechanics Do-It-Yourself Encyclopedia:



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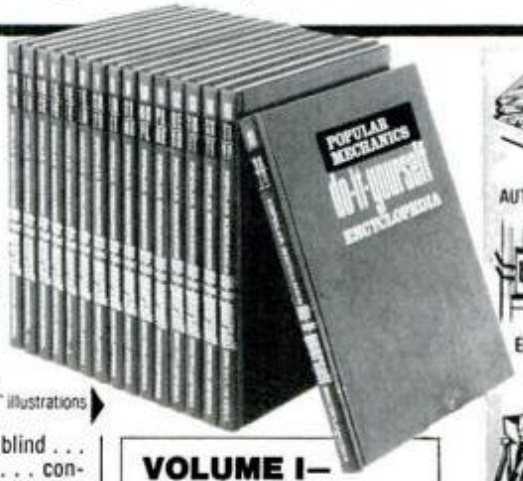

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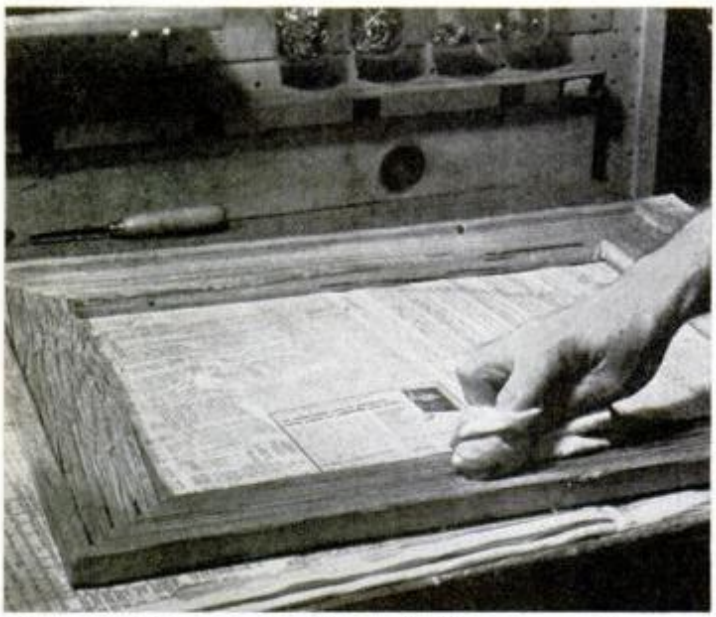
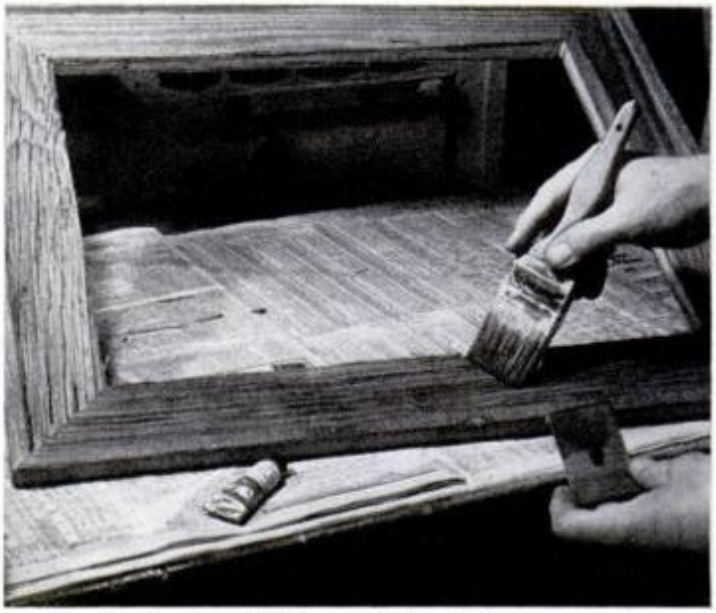
MAKE RUSTIC PICTURE FRAMES FROM BARN SIDING

(Continued from page 184)



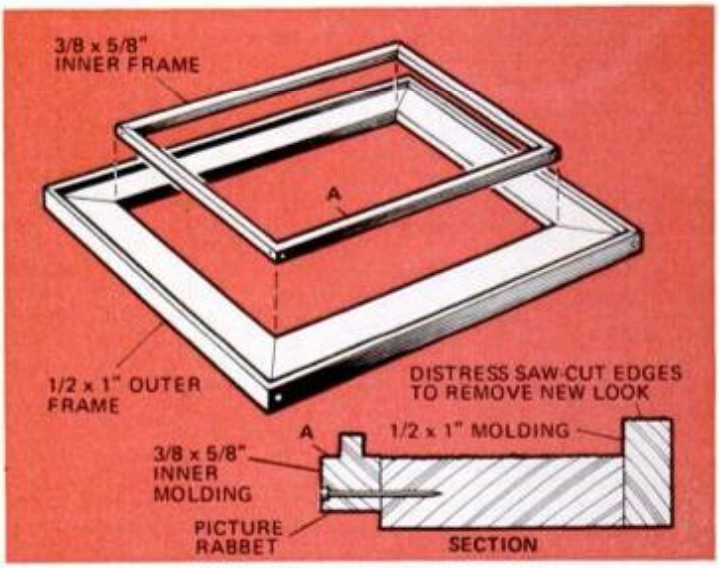
Wipe most of the stain from the wood with a coarse cloth, then while the stain is still wet, brush lightly and evenly with oil colors that accent the colors in the picture.



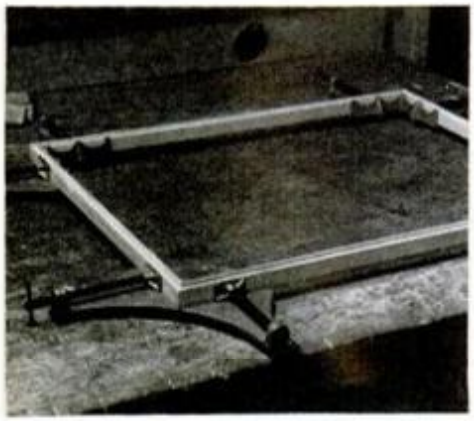
Use burnt umber for rich brown tint, burnt sienna followed by a touch of yellow ochre here and there for a warm brown look. Experiment on scrap piece of wood first.

Rip ⅜ x ⅝-in. molding to shape shown for adding to inside of main frame from scrap stock. Sand the wood and miter the ends for an exact inside fit. Molding forms rabbet for glass.

Picture-mounting trick: When covering the back of the frame with brown wrapping paper, dampen paper first. Then apply glue to frame and lay dampened paper in it. When paper dries, it will shrink smooth and tight. Use screw eyes to attach picture wire to back, placing eyes about quarter way down from the top.



Inner frame adds decorative touch, also forms rabbet for picture and glass. Keep shoulders of top bead on molding even with the textured surface of the main frame.



Glue and clamp inner molding together as a separate frame, using your picture-frame clamps to hold the four corners.

Give inner frame two or more coats of a heavy white acrylic paint called gesso. You can buy it in an art store.

When gesso is dry, paint top bead with two coats of gold paint. Finally insert frame inside the main frame and nail.

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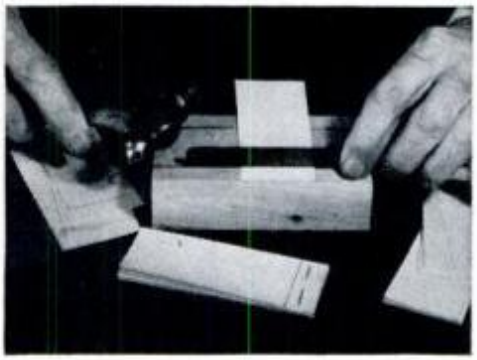
HINTS

FROM READERS

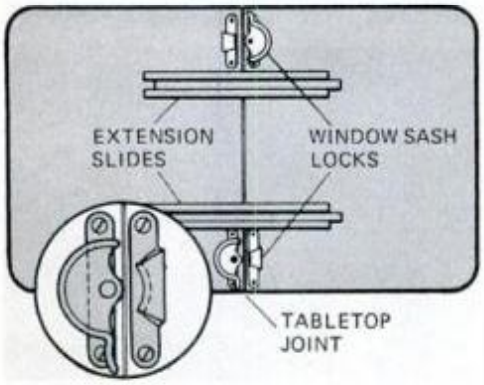
Saw blade perforator



An old hacksaw blade makes a good perforating tool. Grind both sides of its teeth to form sharp projections. Then use it to perforate a notebook for easy page removal by tapping the blade with a hammer.

—Walter E. Burton

Tabletop lock



Tabletop halves that tend to separate can be fastened to make a tight joint. Attach window sash locks at each end of the joint. Allow about ⅜ in. between the lock parts for the table to be joined tightly when the lock is fastened.—*C.J. Tate*

Meter measurer

If a yard is about the distance from your nose when you face forward to the fingertips of your outstretched arm, then a meter is from nose to fingers when your head is turned away from this arm.—*H.J. Miller*

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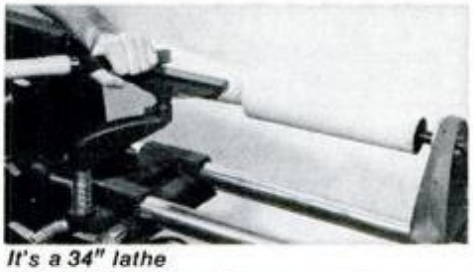
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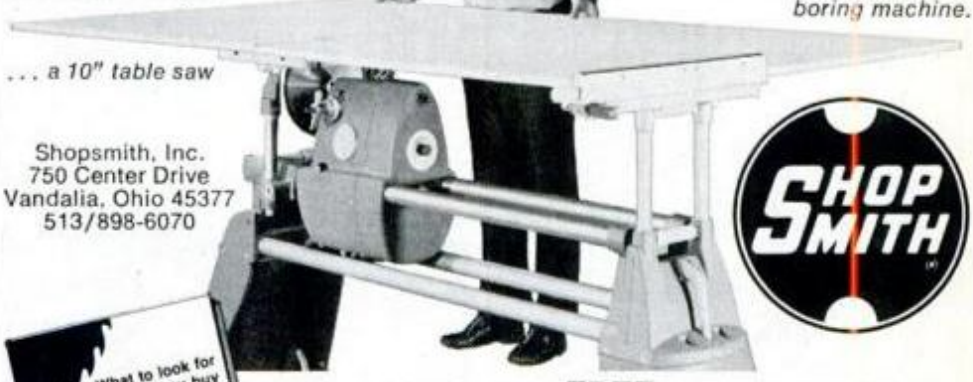
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HINTS

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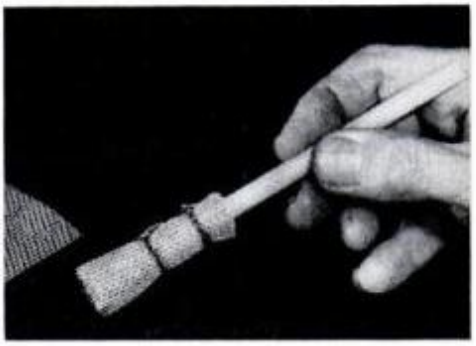
Nozzle substitute

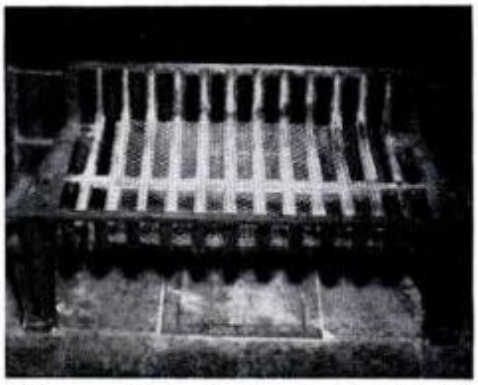
Many spray-can nozzles can be interchanged. So save them after a can has been used for replacing plugged or defective nozzles.—*H. Wheeler*

Brushes from screening



Convert wire screening remnants to brushes by wrapping them around a wooden dowel and binding with wire. They clean files and rasps and remove rust.—*Walter E. Burton*

Enjoy a longer-lasting fire



Place a strip of wire mesh with ¼ to ½-in. squares in your fireplace grate to retain large pieces of half-burned ash that would otherwise fall through the grate.—*Russ Dixon*

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How to make 10 keys do the work of 27

The Sinclair Instrument wrist calculator offers the full range of arithmetic functions. It uses normal algebraic logic ('enter it as you write it'). But in addition, it offers a % key; plus the convenience functions $\sqrt{x}$, $1/x$, x^2; plus a full *5-function memory*.

All this, from just 10 keys! The secret? An ingenious, simple three-position switch. It works like this.

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2. Hold the switch to the left to use the functions to the left above the keys...

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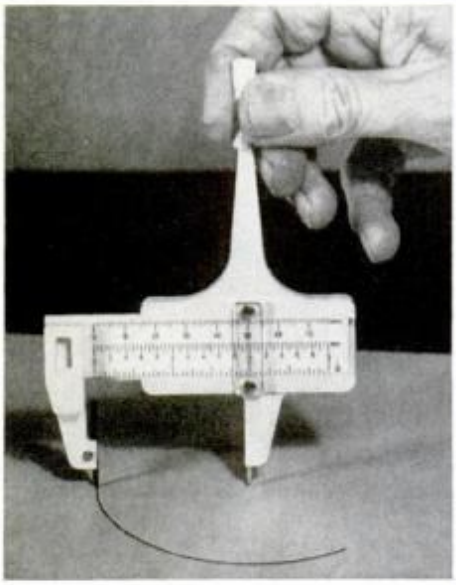

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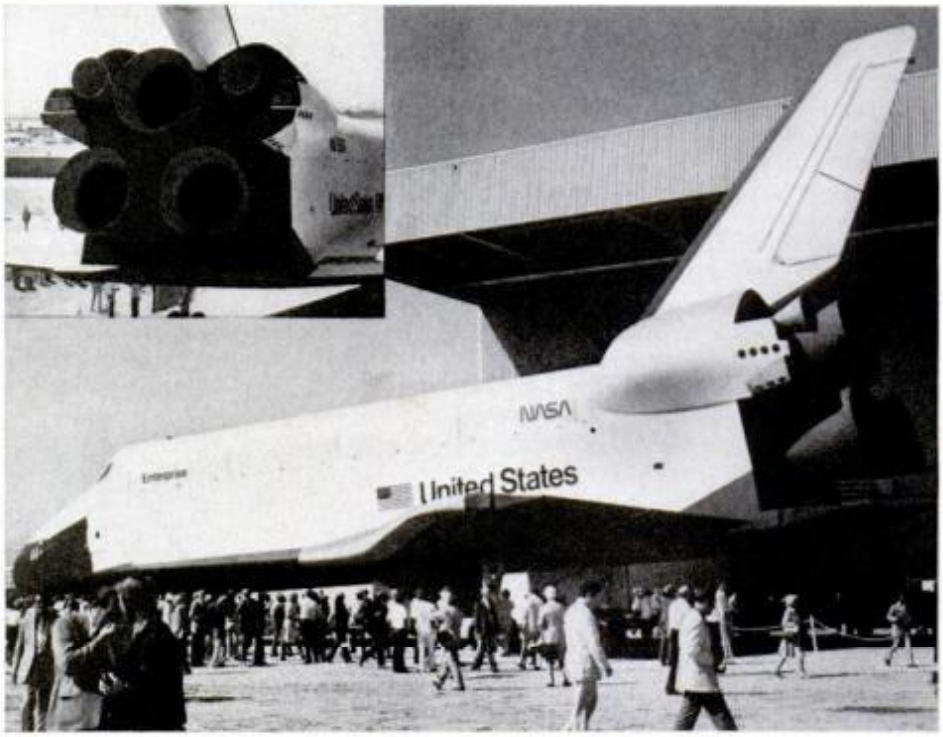
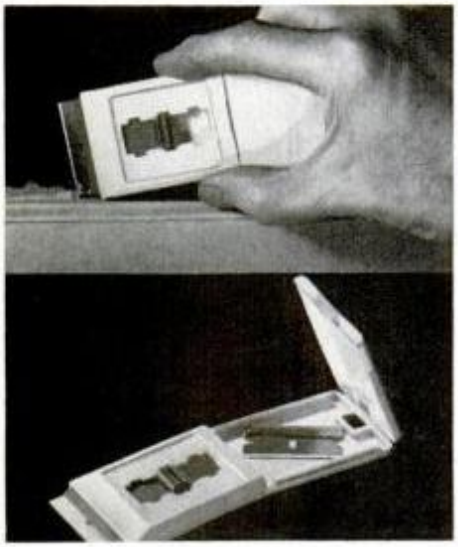


Space Shuttle Orbiter 'Enterprise' gets ready

NASA's new workhorse spacecraft, dubbed "Enterprise" after TV's "Star Trek" ship, is built and being readied for flights starting July 1980. The 122-foot-long, 57-foot-high "returnable" orbiter will deploy satellites, space labs and interplanetary probes, and also service orbiting satellites. Her engines (inset) each produce 375,000 pounds of thrust at sea level, 470,000 in space.



Un-painter for window panes

Removing dried paint from windows after doing the trim can take longer than the painting. Now Red Devil, Inc., has a molded-plastic scraper with a three-position retractable razor-blade working edge that it claims makes the job easier. The slanting contour handle is what turns the trick (top, above). A snap-open compartment inside the handle stores spare blades. Tool, with three blades, costs about $1 at most hardware, paint and department stores.

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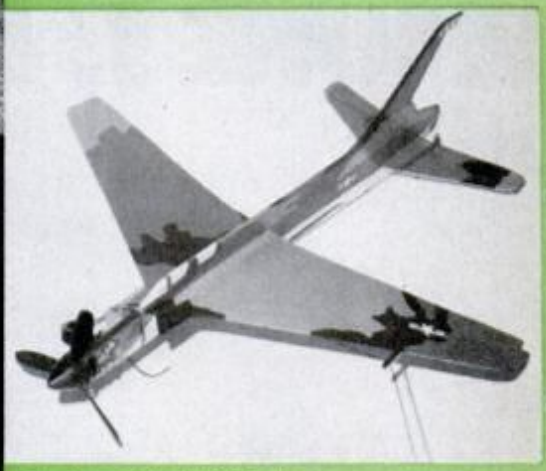
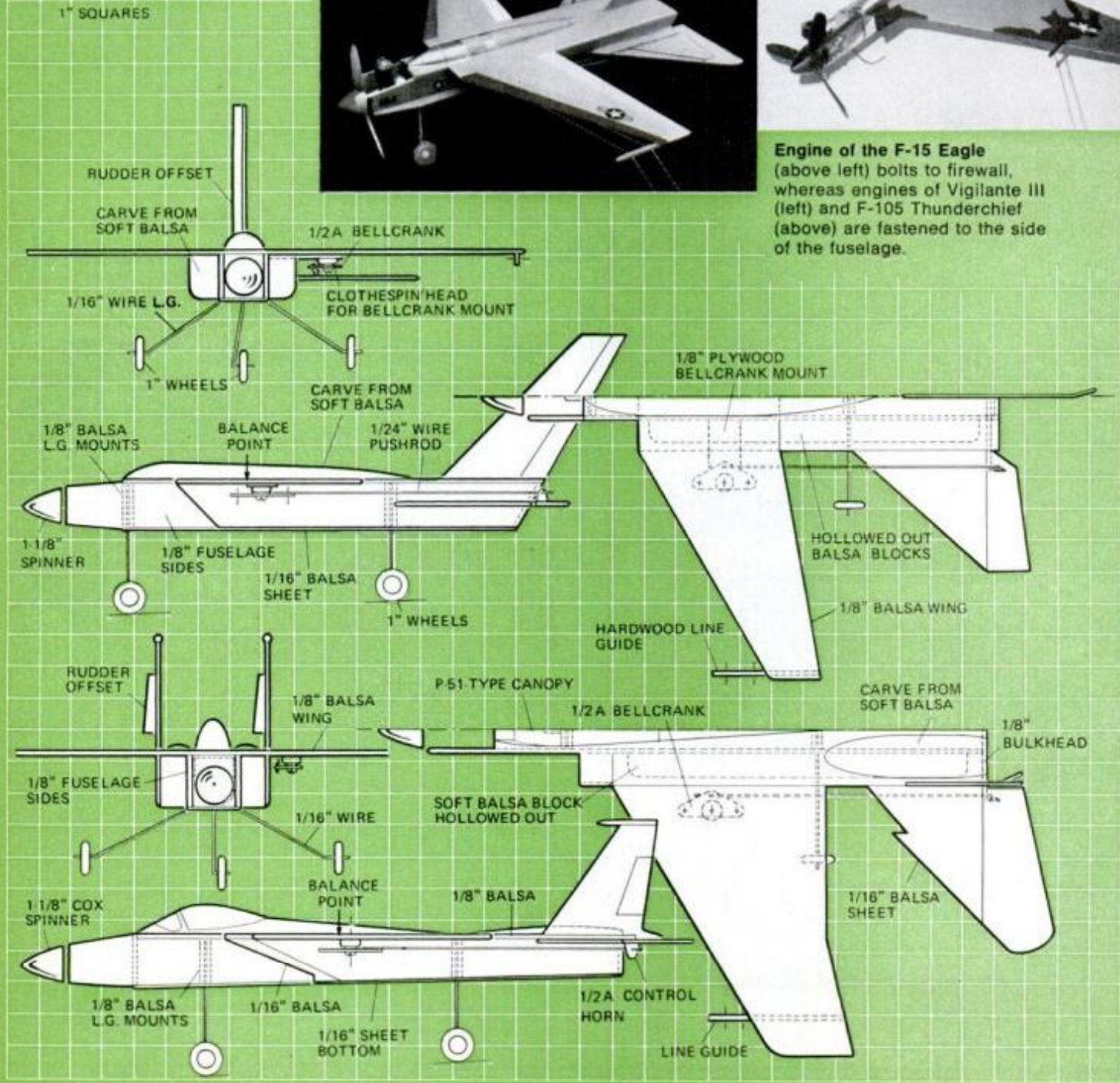
3 control-

Scratch-built planes can use engines retrieved from crashes.

by Fred L. Wolff



Engine of the F-15 Eagle (above left) bolts to firewall, whereas engines of Vigilante III (left) and F-105 Thunderchief (above) are fastened to the side of the fuselage.



line fighters to make

If you have a perfectly good model engine salvaged from the crash of a ready-to-fly plastic job, you can put it to work again powering one of these three easy-to-build control-line models made of balsa. Components such as bellcranks, elevator horns, wheels, tanks, lines and the like, are inexpensive and available at any hobby shop.

Vigilente III

Building the Vigilente III is relatively simple. After studying the plans, shape and sand the fuselage sides from ⅛-in. balsa. Cut the plywood firewall and the balsa rear bulkhead and cement them to the fuselage sides with epoxy. Bend the landing gear from 1/16-in. wire, apply epoxy and sandwich the gear between the landing-gear mounts. Clamp in a vise until dry and epoxy to the fuselage. Next, shape, sand and hollow out the fuselage side blocks (1 x 1½ x 12 in.) and cement in place.

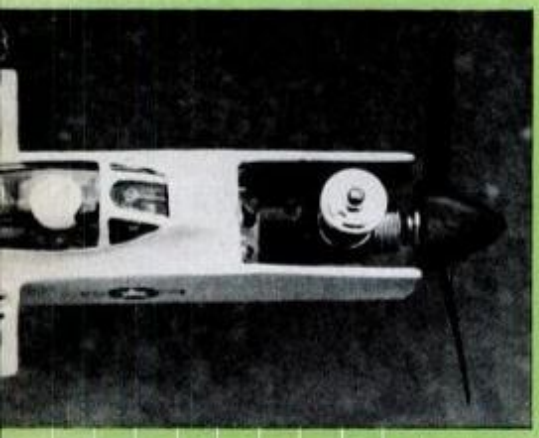
Cut the bellcrank platform from ⅛-in. plywood, epoxy the hardwood bellcrank to it (the top of a clothespin can be used for a mount) and attach the bellcrank with a screw.

Cement the wing in place, add the fuselage top sheeting and then the horizontal stabilizers. The elevators are connected with a ⅛-in. dowel and attached to the stabilizers with cloth hinges. Before hinging, epoxy the control horn to the left elevator. Attach the wire pushrod to the bellcrank and horn, cement the vertical stabilizer in place, offsetting the rudder as shown, and epoxy the hardwood line guide.

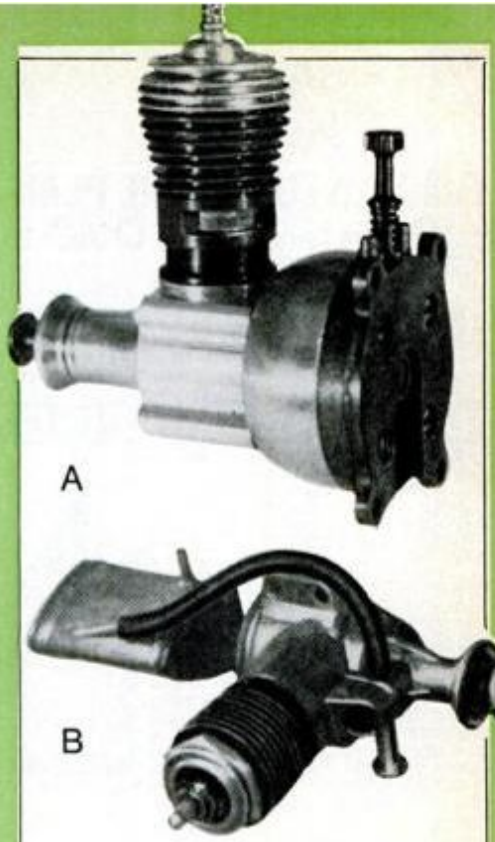
After shaping and gluing together the cockpit canopy from four pieces of ⅛-in. balsa, glue it to the top of the fuselage. All that remains is to add the wheels which are held in place by collars and washers, and the engine which is attached to the firewall with four small screws.

Before cementing the wing and the horizontal and vertical stabilizers in

(Please turn to page 194)



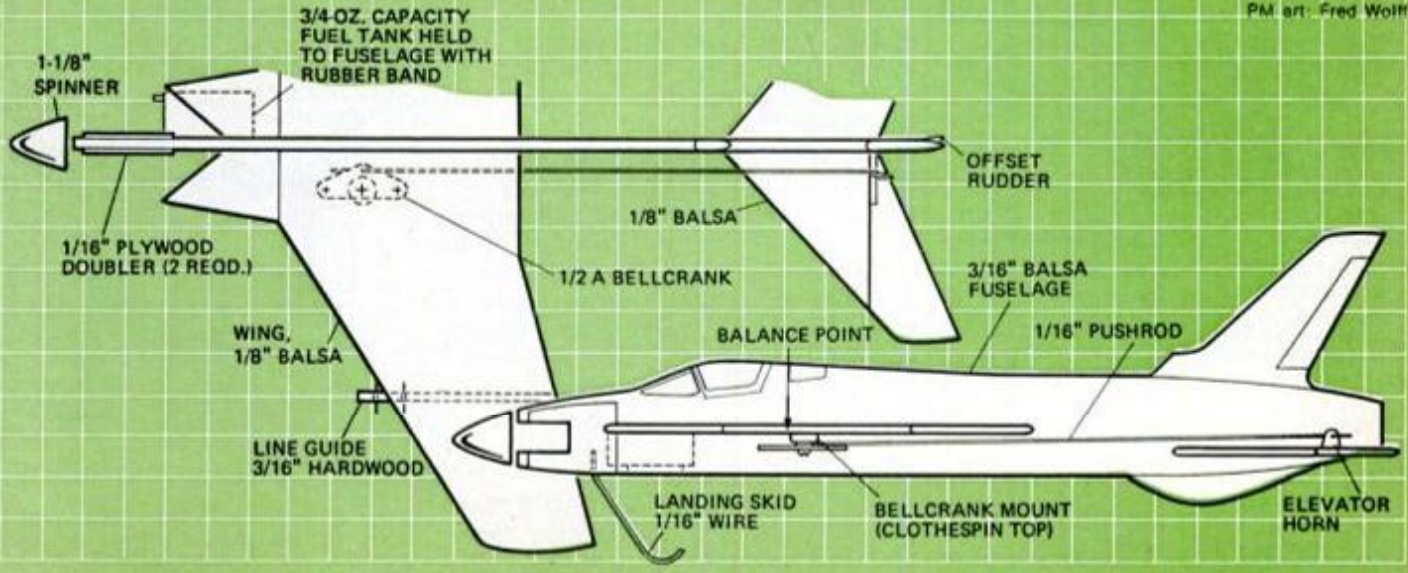
Engine with built-in fuel system (left) is mounted to firewall. Engine with separate fuel tank, rubber-banded to fuselage, bolts to side of profile-type fuselage.



ENGINES

Most small engines used to power ready-to-fly models can be easily adapted to homebuilt designs without modification. In some cases, flywheels must be removed and a new propeller added. Engines that have built-in fuel tanks (A) can be mounted directly to the firewall. Others require separate fuel tanks connected with small tubing to the needle-valve assembly (B). Here, the fuel tank is mounted behind the engine so the fuel outlet is level with engine's needle valve and fuel has a direct path to the engine. Most current engines utilize miniature "glo plugs" for ignition which require a 1½-v. battery to start. Once the engine is running, combustion heat keeps the plug's coil glowing and the battery connections can be removed. Care should be taken to keep vent, filler lines and air intakes unobstructed, and needle valves in the open for adjustment.

PM art: Fred Wolff



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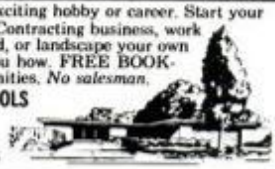

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FIGHTERS (Continued from page 193)

place, cover them with Silkspun Coverite. It saves tedious filling and sanding and enables you to apply a good finish without the usual problems. Brush on several coats of clear dope, covering both sides, and when dry, sand each coat with No. 400 wet/dry sandpaper used dry. Now cement the wing in place, then the tail sections after first painting.

Apply three coats of clear dope to the rest of the plane and sand each with No. 220 sandpaper. Follow with four coats of sanding sealer, let dry for several days and sand again.

Paint the upper half of the fuselage sides light gray, the lower half and the underside of the wing white. The cockpit windows are silver, the jet intakes black and the intake rims red. Add Navy decals. The panel lines are made with a pen. Protect the decals and panel lines from fuel damage with clear dope, spraying or brushing very lightly. Allow to dry for several days. For a really slick finish, gently rub the surface with a wet cloth and polishing compound. Wipe dry, apply car wax and buff.

Tie a length of thread to a pin and press it into the fuselage at the balance point indicated. Raise the craft by the thread and add weight (wood scrap or light metal) to the nose or tail until the airplane hangs level. Never fly a plane that's tail-heavy.

Hook up two 20-ft. lengths of dacron flying lines and make sure the knots are tied tight. Before each flight, check the elevators for freedom of movement.

Vigilante III is very stable in flight. On landing, anticipate when the engine will run out of fuel and take her down near the ground. The craft won't drop like a brick, but neither will it glide very far. It has a high sink rate.

The F-15

The F-15 is built basically the same. Start with the fuselage, install the formers, firewall and landing gear. The fuselage sides are made of 1/16-in.-thick sheet balsa. The canopy is from a Scientific or similar Mustang kit, and is blended into the fuselage with plastic balsa or a filler of your preference. Finally add the remaining essentials—engine, bell-crank, wire and control horn. Wing and tail surfaces are installed in the same way as the Vigilante III.

The F-105

The F-105 is simpler to build than the other two because it has a "profile" fuselage that requires no bulkheads, coverings and the like. The wing is cut from ⅛-in. balsa and brushed with several coats of clear dope. Apply it to both sides at a time to avoid warping. When dry, sand with No. 400 wet/dry sandpaper.

The fuselage is cut from 3/16-in. balsa and is notched where the wing goes. Cut the engine doublers from 1/16-in. plywood and epoxy them to the nose as shown. Cut the fuselage and doublers to fit your engine. The vertical stabilizer is cut from 3/16-in. balsa and can be either glued to the fuselage or be a part of the same piece. Cut the rudder and glue it into the offset shown. The ventral fin is cut from ⅛ or 3/16-in. balsa and glued to the bottom of the fuselage.

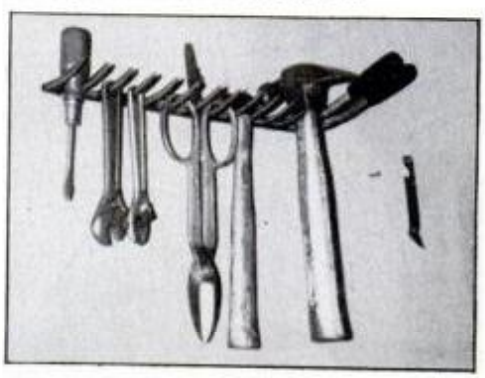
Cut the horizontal stabilizer and elevator from ⅛ or 3/16-in. balsa. Sand to shape and glue the stabilizer to the fuselage. Attach the elevator to the stabilizer with cloth hinges. Add the ⅛-in.-plywood horn to the elevator. Sand the edges of the fuselage, vertical stabilizer and ventral fin.

Install the wing to the fuselage with epoxy. Epoxy the bellcrank mount and the hardwood line guide, then the balsa tank-position guide.

Since the wing is already treated with clear dope, brush several coats on the fuselage and the rest of the model. Sand and camouflage the plane and install the engine. Lash on the ¾-oz. fuel tank with rubber bands. An optional wire landing skid can be added. Install the bellcrank and the wire.

Balance the plane as before, adding weight to nose or tail if needed. Hook up 25 to 35-ft. dacron flying lines. Before each flight, check the elevator for freedom of movement. On take-off have your helper run a few steps and then gently launch the plane. On landing, anticipate when the fuel will run out and fly straight and level. When the engine quits, glide the plane in and apply the up elevator just before touchdown. ★★★

Hang tools on a rake rack



Remove the broken handle of your old rake and fasten the head to a wall in your workshop or garage. It's a handle toolholder.—*Max Calkin*

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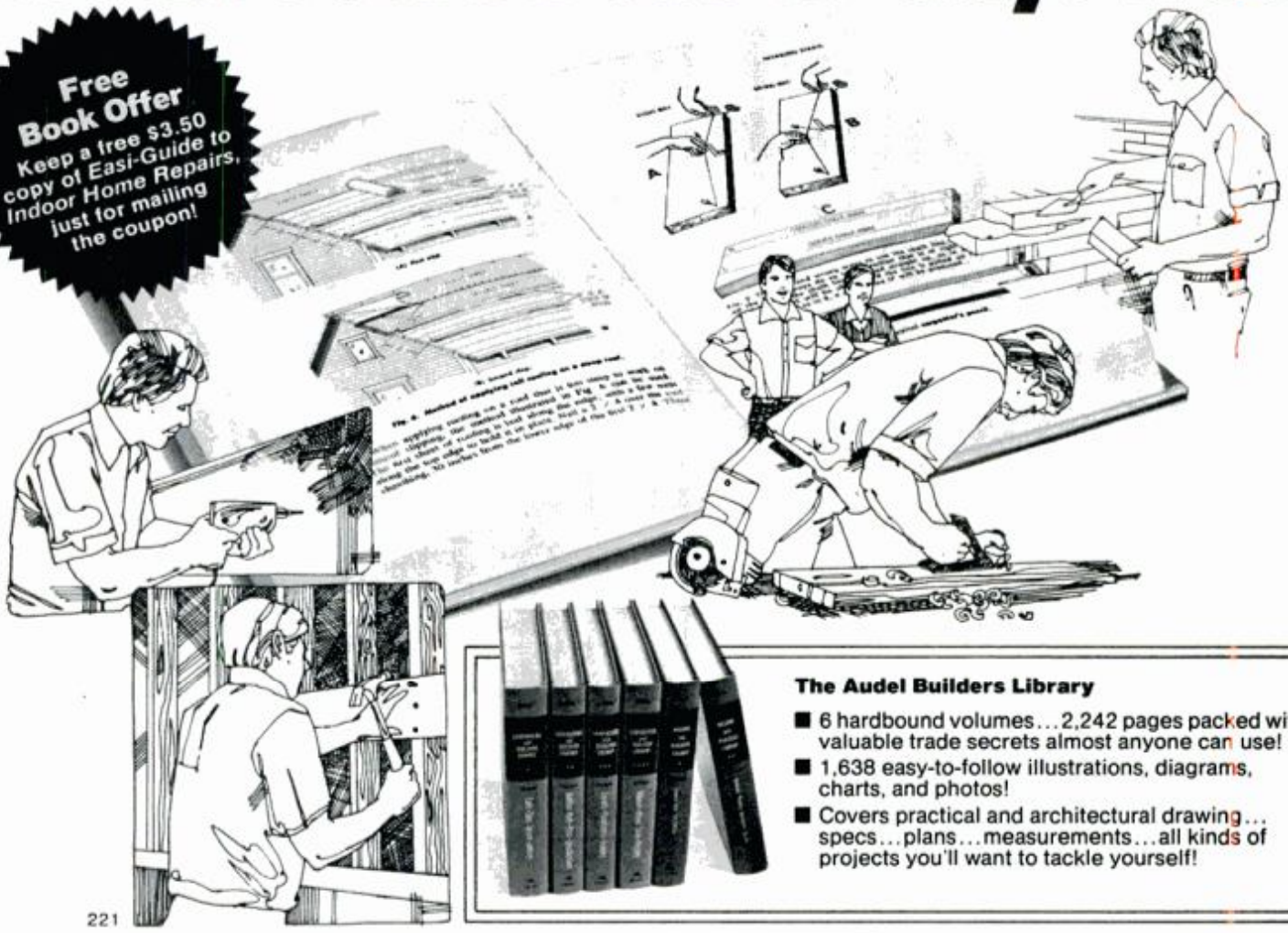

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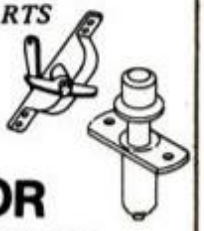

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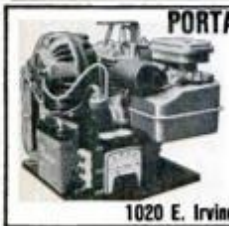

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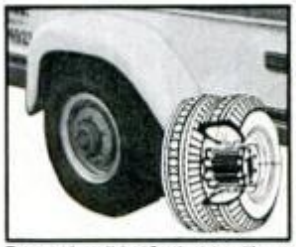

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An expert tells you how to get back in shape!

Our files show that thousands of men want to get back in shape, but don't know how to go about it. We decided to ask an expert, Mike Fretault, leading fitness authority. Here are his answers.

Q. How can I get back in shape?

A. There is only one answer to that: get more exercise.

Q. Won't sports do the trick?

A. Sure, sports are great, provided you practice a "complete" sport like jogging, swimming or rowing a few hours every week. Unfortunately, most men don't have the time or energy for that.

Q. How about calisthenics?

A. Also very good, but even a beginner's program should comprise at least 200 to 300 repetitions. Most men find calisthenics tiring and boring and give up after a few workouts.

Q. Isn't there an easier way?

A. There is one outstanding home training method I use and recommend. It's fast, it's easy and it keeps you interested because during every workout you actually see your strength increasing on the built-in Powermeter gauge.

Q. What's it called?

A. Bullworker® training. It's based on Isometric techniques which have been proven to increase strength three times faster than conventional methods.

Q. How long does it take?

A. The introductory "get back in shape" program requires only 70 seconds of exercise per day. The complete advanced training program takes about 5 minutes.

Q. What kind of results can I expect?

A. After 2 or 3 weeks of introductory training, most men can see an increase in strength of around 10% and measure an extra inch or two of muscle on their shoulders, chest, biceps–and an inch or two less flab around the waist.

Q. But it's hard work, isn't it?

A. Absolutely not. Most men between 15 and 65 in good general health can run through the full program without getting tired. Bullworker training is progressive so you perform better each time, yet the training always seems easy to you.

Q. What can I expect from continued training?

A. The sky's the limit. There are specialized exercises for building-up or trimming down any part of your body you want to: broad, muscular shoulders–bulging biceps, powerful wrists and forearms–a deep, manly chest tapering down to a flat, trim waist–muscular thighs and calves. You can expect strength increases of up to 4% a week; that's 50% in just three months and I have seen many men go on to double and even triple their strength.

Q. How can I find out more about Bullworker?

A. I suggest you write for the Free Booklet in color. It contains complete details about Bullworker training and tells you how you can try a Bullworker for two weeks in your own home without cost or obligation.

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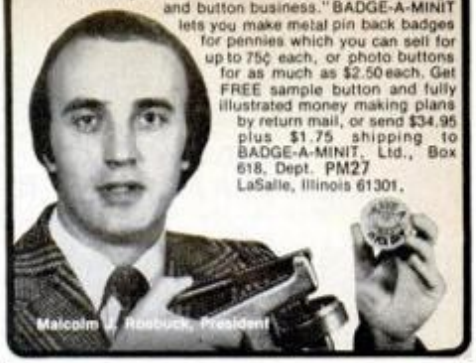

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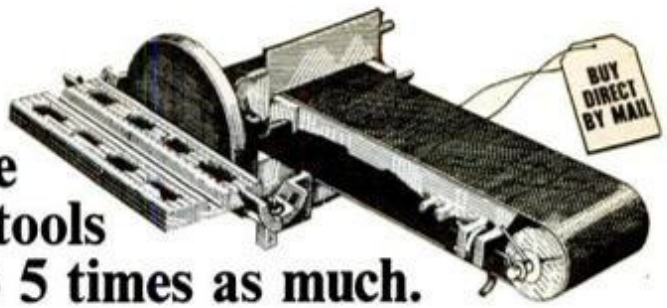

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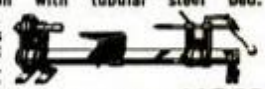

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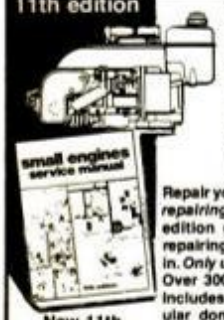

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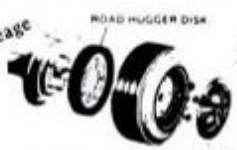

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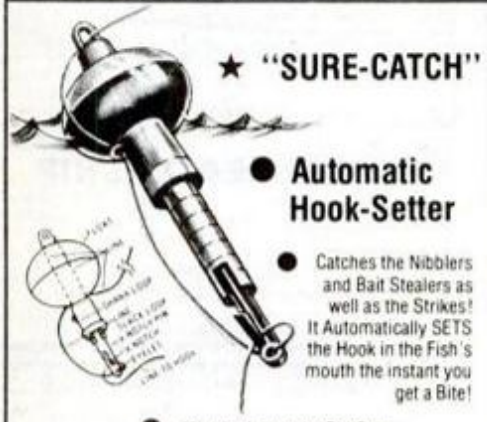

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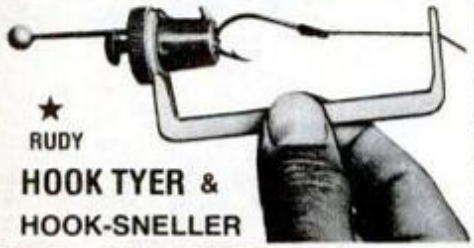

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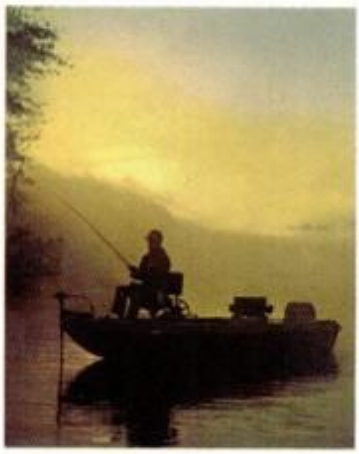

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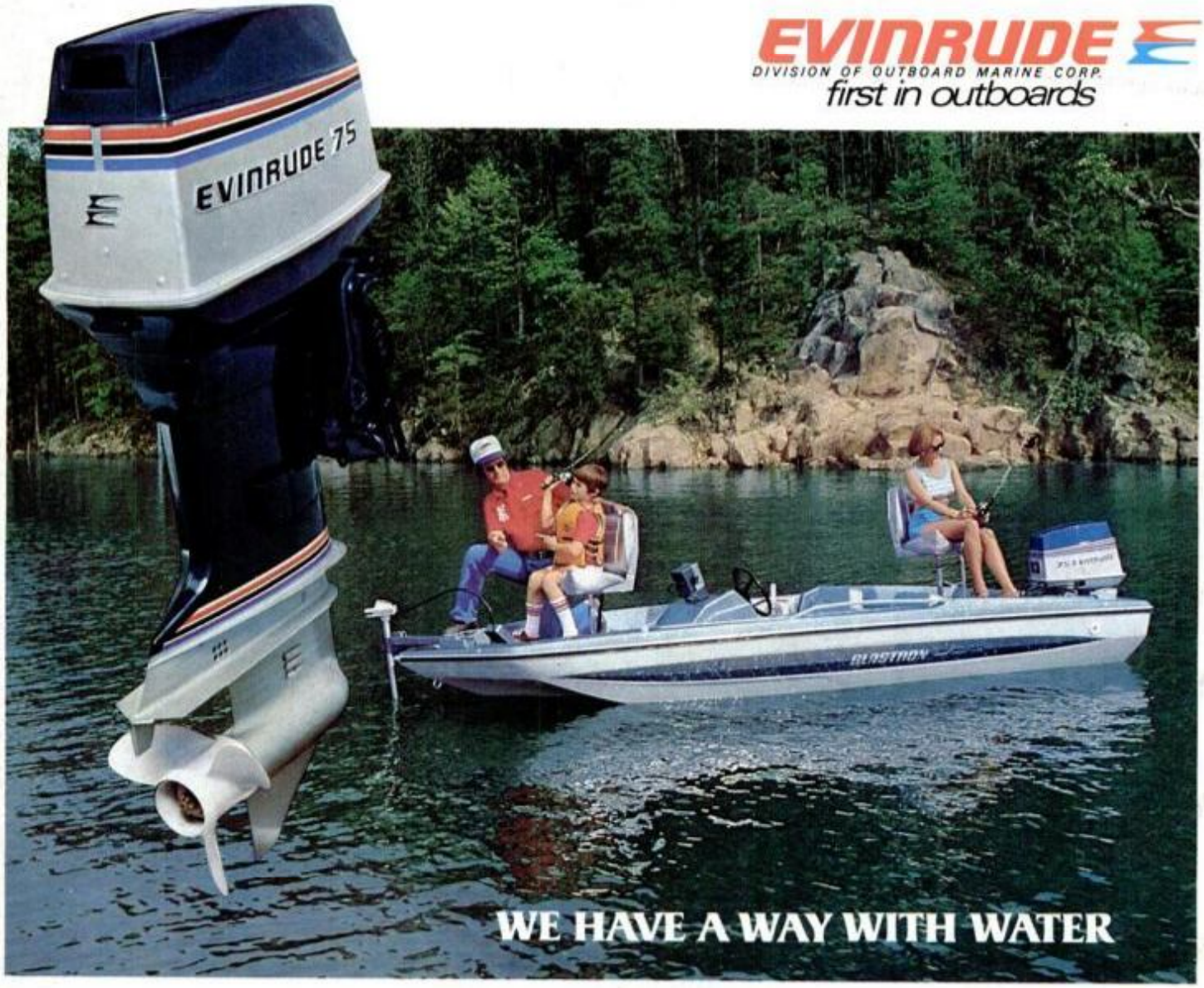

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